

LONDON- WEST MIDLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Volume 5 | Technical Appendices

CFA16 | Ladbroke and Southam

Baseline report (CH-001-016)

Cultural heritage

November 2013

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Department
for Transport

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Appendix CH-001-016

Environmental topic:	Cultural heritage	CH
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1 Introduction

1.1 Structure of the cultural heritage appendices

- 1.1.1 The cultural heritage appendices for the Ladbroke and Southam CFA comprise
- baseline reports (this appendix);
 - a gazetteer of heritage assets (Appendix CH-002-016);
 - impact assessment tables (Appendix CH-003-016); and
 - survey reports (Appendix CH-004-016).
- 1.1.2 Maps referred to throughout the cultural heritage appendices are contained in the Volume 5 cultural heritage map book.

1.2 Content and Scope

- 1.2.1 This baseline provides the evidence base, along with Appendices CH-002-016, CH-003-016, CH-004-016, against which the assessment of assets that may be affected by the Proposed Scheme can be determined. It collates information about known and potential heritage assets from a variety of sources and presents a chronological description and discussion of the development of the Study Area, placing assets within their historical and archaeological context.
- 1.2.2 The baseline is structured, as with other CFAs, as follows:
- section 1 of the document provides introductory material relating to the scope of the assessment, study area and key data sources;
 - section 2 provides background info on geology and topography;
 - section 3 provides a chronological description of the archaeological and historical development of the area;
 - section 4 provides an overview of the Built Heritage resource;
 - section 5 relates to a Map Regression;
 - section 6 provides a description of the Historic Landscape, including Registered Parks & Gardens and Important Hedgerows;
 - section 7 describes the archaeological character of the route; this is closely related to Appendix CH-003-016;
 - section 8 provides an overview of archaeological understanding and potential; and
 - section 9 provides information sources.

1.3 Study Area

- 1.3.1 The Ladbroke to Southam Community Forum Area lies within south-east Warwickshire on the border with Northamptonshire and within the eastern part of Stratford-upon-Avon District. It comprises parts of the civil parishes of Wormleighton,

Stoneton, Hodnell and Wills, Radbourne, Ladbroke, Southam, Ufton, and Bishops Itchington.

- 1.3.2 All non-designated and designated assets within the land required for construction and within 500m of it have been detailed in this baseline assessment. In addition, designated heritage assets have been examined up to 2km either side of the land required for construction.
- 1.3.3 All identified assets are listed in Appendix CH-002-016 and shown on maps CH-01-101 to CH-01-105a and CH-02-101 to CH-02-103 in Volume 5

1.4 Data Sources

- 1.4.1 Sources examined as part of this baseline assessment include published secondary sources, cartographic sources, historic environment record (HER) data for undesignated heritage assets and English Heritage National Heritage List data for designated assets. A full list of published sources can be found at the end of this appendix.

1.5 Surveys Undertaken

- 1.5.1 The following surveys were undertaken as part of the EIA process:
 - LiDAR survey of the majority of the Proposed Scheme and land around it (see Appendix CH-004-016);
 - hyperspectral survey of the majority of the Proposed Scheme and land around it (see Appendix CH-004-016);
 - a programme of non-intrusive surveys including geophysical prospection (see Appendix CH-004-016); and
 - site reconnaissance field inspections to review the setting of historic assets and the character and form of the historic landscape.

2 Geology, topography and landform

- 2.1.1 The underlying bedrock geology of the Study Area crosses a sequence of late Triassic and early Jurassic (Lias) rocks trending from south-west west to north-east and gently dipping to the south-east (British Geological Society (BGS) mapping at 1:10,000, 1:50,000). For the purposes of this study three broad geological zones have been identified: Lower Lias Clays, Charmouth Mudstones, and Mercian Mudstones.
- South – between Wormleighton and the eastern edge of Southam the rocks largely comprise Lower Jurassic (Lias) Charmouth Mudstones. Commonly named Lower Lias Clays, these result in a landscape of low rolling hills. These are capped by younger and harder Jurassic rocks such as Marlstone forming an upland ridge in the very southern part of the Study Area. This area is associated with slow permeable, seasonally wet, and slightly acid but base rich loamy and clayey soils. This results in moderate fertility and land use is typically grassland and arable with some woodland. A small patch of these soils is also found around Bascote Heath west of Southam;
 - Central – between Southam to Ufton Wood and the Charmouth Mudstones overlay a 3 to 4km-wide band of late Triassic/early Jurassic Limestones that run across the proposed route. The area is associated with lime rich loamy and clayey soils that are freer draining than the soils to the south with higher fertility, and are typically associated with arable land use, with some grassland; and
 - North –between Ufton Wood and extending north beyond the Grand Union Canal and boundary to the Study Area are Late Triassic Mercian Mudstones. These are the earliest rocks found in the Study Area. The area is associated with slightly acid, loamy and clayey soils with slightly impeded drainage. As a result soils are of moderate to high fertility, and land use is made up of a mix of arable, pasture and woodland.
- 2.1.2 Within the Study Area very little superficial geology is marked on the British Geological Survey (BGS) maps. Isolated patches of Pleistocene glacial till and glacio-fluvial deposits cap some of the low hills (e.g. Wormleighton Hill and Ladbroke Hill), with other patches directly below the settlements at Hodnell Manor and Wormleighton. Narrow bands of more recent Holocene alluvium are present within stream and river valleys (i.e. River Itchen) with some exposed head deposits (possibly colluvium) to the north beyond Ufton/Long Itchingdon Wood.
- 2.1.3 Only one river runs through the Study Area, the River Itchen. The Itchen runs roughly south to north from where it rises near Wormleighton. It is fed by several small streams and brooks before flowing into the River Leam north of the Study Area. The River Avon flows north to south to the west of the Study Area
- 2.1.4 The alluvial deposits associated with the River Itchen and north of Long Itchingdon Wood have the potential to mask any archaeological assets and to mask and preserve palaeo-environmental deposits.
- 2.1.5 The topography of the Study Area is variable, with elevations ranging between 70m and 138m AOD. North of Ladbroke the Study Area lies within the Dunsmore and

Feldon Character Area. Dunsmore comprises a wedge-shaped area of low ridges and valleys lying between Leamington Spa, Coventry and Rugby. The centre of the Dunsmore Character Area is former heathland associated with the low plateau of glacial deposits running from Cubbington to Hillmorton. The Feldon is closely associated with a broad belt of Lower Lias clays which form a gently rolling tableland some 100 m to 150m AOD.

- 2.1.6 In the south, between Wormleighton and Ladbroke, the Study Area lies within the Northamptonshire Uplands, an area dominated by rounded undulating hills with many long, low ridgelines. This area of higher ground gives out to the north and west. On its western edge (3km beyond Wormleighton) the boundary with the lower and flatter Feldon clay vale is clearly marked by the valley of the River Itchen, which flows north into the River Leam. To the north the boundary is marked by a low ridge of hills (between 120 and 130 m high) close to the village of Ladbroke. Between lies an area of rolling hills dissected by small streams flowing west into the Itchen.
- 2.1.7 To the north of Ladbroke the Study Area lies more properly within the Feldon although the undulating landscape is still broken by the valley of the Itchen, crossing the Study Area directly to the north-west of Southam, and by a low limestone ridge crossing in the area of Ufton.
- 2.1.8 The geology, soils and topography of this region have been important factors in determining how past human populations have exploited and interacted with the landscape. This has subsequently been influenced by human habitation to create the current environment.

3 Archaeological and historical background

3.1 Early prehistory

Palaeolithic 500,000-10,000BC

- 3.1.1 There is no known evidence for activity during the Palaeolithic period in this Study Area. The West Midlands region has produced far less evidence for activity and occupation during the Palaeolithic than other areas such as southern and eastern England¹.
- 3.1.2 Artefacts of this period found in the West Midlands are generally recovered from river deposits such as the River Avon, to the north and west, and River Severn further south and west of the Study Area. Major rivers in existence during this period, which are no longer present, included the Mathon to the west of Worcester and the Bytham that existed north of this Study Area and east of Coventry. The Bytham, along with the proto Thames to the south, would have been one of the main communication and trade routes from the continental land mass into the West Midland area². Later glacial activity erased the landscape of the Bytham River, but later river systems such as the Avon and Trent would have remained a focus for human activity.
- 3.1.3 While the gravel terraces associated with these rivers have produced significant Palaeolithic materials³, none have been located within the Study Area. Locations suitable for human occupation would be uncommon, given the harsh environment at the time and the location of the Study Area at the northern limit of Lower Palaeolithic settlement area. Populations would have relied on constant access to water and food sources available from river valleys, and evidence of Palaeolithic occupation would be restricted to such locations⁴.
- 3.1.4 Sites with evidence for occupation for the Palaeolithic period are internationally extremely rare and no in-situ evidence directly indicating settlement has been recovered for this period for the whole of the West Midlands. All the evidence consists of finds of tools in redeposited contexts (washed out of original positions by later fluvio-glacial and alluvial erosion). Recent analysis of lithic materials, including five handaxes and recovered from a relatively small area, suggests that the artefacts did not travel far from their original place of deposition⁵. Other finds of early to Middle Palaeolithic tools have been made along the Avon valley making the location an important focus for research.
- 3.1.5 The key to locating sites and finds from this period lies in identifying the promising geological deposits that contain them, and these are invariably fluvio-glacial sands and gravels within the terrace deposits of river valleys like the Avon. The Study Area

¹ Garwood, P. (2011), The earlier prehistory of the west midlands. In Watt, S., ed. *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research*. Oxbow Books: Oxford.

² Lang, A. T. O. and Buteux, S. T. E. (2007), Lost but not forgotten: the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic occupation of the West Midlands. In: Garwood, P., ed. (2007) *The undiscovered Country; the earlier prehistory of the west midlands*. Oxbow Books: Oxford.

³ Ibid, 7.

⁴ Ibid. 15-16.

⁵ Lang, A., & Keen, D. (2005), A new find from Waverley Wood Farm Pit. *Lithics* 24, pp. 32–36.

contains very limited opportunities for the kind of deposits which are likely to contain Palaeolithic sites and finds such as fluvio-glacial sands and gravels etc. The only potential areas likely to have deposits suitable for evidence of early human activity relate to the River Itchen and a possible former water course to the south-west of Southam (WA1.39) identified by LiDAR.

- 3.1.6 There has been very little research into the Upper Palaeolithic of the West Midlands. Very few sites have been identified and only a single lithic find is known from Tiddington in north-east Warwickshire⁶. Most recorded finds have been made further afield at cave sites (e.g. King Arthurs Cave in Herefordshire and Elder Bush Cave in the Derbyshire Peak District). However, recent finds from more open sites in the East Midlands suggests there may be some potential to provide information regarding the Upper Palaeolithic in the West Midlands and Warwickshire⁷.

Mesolithic 10,000-4,000BC

- 3.1.7 There are no known heritage assets of Mesolithic date within the Study Area.
- 3.1.8 This period marks a significant change from the Palaeolithic in both environment and land-use. The mobile hunter gatherer communities of the Palaeolithic adapted to the transformation of the environment from open grassland to a densely forested landscape, which was accompanied by rising temperatures and sea levels leading to the flooding of the land bridge between Britain and continental Europe. At the end of the Mesolithic communities became more settled and began to develop the social structures, economic practices and technologies that would later define human society during the Neolithic.
- 3.1.9 As with the Palaeolithic, the Mesolithic has been little studied in the West Midlands⁸. Nonetheless, there is some evidence relating to the Mesolithic in the West Midlands although, largely within the central uplands and the east. Concentrations in Warwickshire exist along the Cotswold fringe, up through the Avon valley into north Warwickshire with most of evidence coming from surface collection of lithics from ploughed fields⁹.
- 3.1.10 While there have been no finds in the Study Area, finds have been made in similar environments within southern Warwickshire, notably in the upper valleys of the Tachbrook, near Chesterton, and the River Dene near Kineton¹⁰. In addition, recent work in Leicestershire has shown the potential for the locating Mesolithic material within clay landscapes.

Neolithic 4,000-2,200BC

- 3.1.11 There are no known heritage assets of Neolithic date within the Study Area.
- 3.1.12 The Neolithic period is widely defined by the introduction of farming to Britain, although hunting, gathering and foraging remained an important part of the economy

⁶ Myers, A. M. (2007), The Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic archaeology of the West Midlands. In: Garwood, P., ed., *The undiscovered Country; the earlier prehistory of the west midlands*. Oxbow Books: Oxford.

⁷ Garwood 2011, 24.

⁸ Garwood 2011, 25.

⁹ Myers 2007, fig 2.

¹⁰ Ibid.

and society of the time^{11, 12}. Nevertheless, the introduction of agriculture was sufficiently revolutionary to leave a marked change on society. Changes to settlement patterns, material goods and burial practices created a noticeably different landscape.

- 3.1.13 The West Midlands has a relative scarcity of evidence from the Neolithic period compared with surrounding regions and relatively little research has been undertaken. A small number of polished stone axes have been found close by at Offchurch (HER 9276), and at Napton on the Hill (HER 4458). The exact age of the artefacts is uncertain, and they may date from between 4000 to 2500 BC and so could better belong to later parts of the Neolithic. Early Neolithic material has also been found further away at Barford, Charlcote and Wasperton in the middle Avon, some 13 km to the east of the Study Area^{13, 14}.
- 3.1.14 The Middle and Late Neolithic is distinguished from the Early Neolithic by the appearance of new types of material goods, such as pottery, as well as new, more massive and complex monuments (cursus monuments, henges, stone circles and avenues), and the development of ceremonial centres and sacred landscapes¹⁵. This is taken to indicate increased population, greater emphasis on economic exploitation of the landscape through both pastoralism and arable cultivation (and so increased clearance of the forest), and an increasingly complex and hierarchical social organisation.
- 3.1.15 Despite these changes the pattern of relatively scarce and uneven evidence is continued during the Late Neolithic. While there is some intensification and expansion of settlement in the region it remains focussed on the middle Avon valley, at Barford, Sherbourne, Wasperton and Charlcote, and within the upper Avon at Kings Newnham and Church Lawford. The monument types at these sites are more limited and of a lesser scale than those found elsewhere (e.g. the Upper Thames) and this continues to suggest that the West Midlands in general, including the Study Area, was either on the periphery of more 'developed' areas or had developed distinctive economic and cultural forms that leave different and harder to identify markers.
- 3.1.16 There is no known evidence for settlement and land use during the Neolithic period in the Study Area. However, the stone axes mentioned above might date to this period and other probable Neolithic flint tools have been recovered from nearby at Southam (HER 3879 and 10295) and Fenny Compton (HER 9746). The potential for low level, ephemeral activity is similar to the preceding early Neolithic.

3.2 Later Prehistory

Bronze Age 2,200-700BC

- 3.2.1 There are no known heritage assets of Bronze Age date within the Study Area.

¹¹ Thomas, J.S. (1999), *Understanding the Neolithic*. Routledge: London.

¹² Whittle, A. (1996), *Europe in the Neolithic: The Creation of New Worlds*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.

¹³ Ray, K. (2007), The Neolithic in the West Midlands. In: P Garwood, ed., *The Undiscovered Country: the earlier prehistory of the West Midlands*. Oxbow Books: Oxford, pp. 51-78.

¹⁴ Palmer S.C. (2007), Recent work on the Neolithic and Bronze Age in Warwickshire. In: Garwood, P., ed., *The undiscovered Country; the earlier prehistory of the west midlands*. Oxbow Books: Oxford.

¹⁵ Garwood 2011.

- 3.2.2 The Bronze Age saw the introduction of metal working to Britain in the 3rd millennium BC. Evidence for this period, although more frequent than the preceding periods, is still quite rare within the West Midlands. The emergence of groups of round barrows during the early Bronze Age marks a distinct change from the type of ceremonial monuments and landscapes constructed during the Neolithic¹⁶. Large numbers of round barrows and ring ditches, that either survives as partial earthworks or as belowground remains, have been identified by aerial photography in the west midlands.
- 3.2.3 A relatively large numbers of barrows have been mapped and investigated in the north-east of Warwickshire at Wolvey and Kings Newnham. However, very little research for the period has been undertaken within the Midlands.
- 3.2.4 Although no barrows or other Bronze Age material is known from within the Study Area, a number of barrows are located nearby along the Jurassic ridge at Edge Hill, and also close to Bishops Itchington, Marston Doles and Napton on the Hill. To the north of the Study Area in Long Itchington, six barrows are recorded on the HER within the lower Itchen valley (HER 1411, 1705, 4875, 4630, 4629, and 4605). The HER also records the find of a Bronze Age gold ring from the south-west of Wormleighton, although its precise date and provenance is uncertain (HER 1311, NHER 337375, and Numismatic Chronicle, 14, 1851-2). While the River Avon continues to provide a focus for known activity, it is likely that similar evidence may also extend to its tributaries and streams, including within the Study Area the Itchen, and close by to the west the Tach Brook and the River Dean.
- 3.2.5 Environmental evidence suggests that increasing amounts of land were being cleared of forest, with middle Bronze Age dates identified for the terraces of the Avon valley¹⁷. This activity appears to have extended into the heavier clay lands to the south close to the Study Area¹⁸. Burnt mounds, dated to around 1000BC, have been identified to the west of the Itchen valley at Sharmer Farm in Ufton (HER 800, 801, 5112). A Bronze Age cremation cemetery has also been identified during evaluation of a medieval site at Long Itchington (HER 5748).

Iron Age 800BC-AD43

- 3.2.6 The Iron Age is marked by the gradual introduction of iron working technologies, the emergence of new types of defended enclosures, most notably the hill fort, and a shift away from the ritual monuments dominant in earlier periods. The population of Britain grew substantially, made possible partly by the introduction of new crops and improved farming techniques enabling the cultivation of heavy clay soils.
- 3.2.7 In the Iron Age settlement evidence in the region becomes more visible with enclosures identified from aerial photographs a particularly common feature. These enclosures are often associated with round houses and appear to be fairly short-lived with little internal development. The landscape becomes far more intensively farmed with some extensive field systems recorded. Extensive settlement sites have been found in Warwickshire on less well-drained soils than is common in the south of

¹⁶ Garwood 2011, 64.

¹⁷ Hurst, D. (2011), Middle Bronze Age to Iron Age: a research assessment overview and agenda. In: Watt, S., ed., *The Archaeology of the West Midlands; a framework for research*. Oxbow Books: Oxford.

¹⁸ Ibid, fig. 3.

England¹⁹. At the same time funerary practices are less commonly recorded. Burial evidence is somewhat limited compared to that for the later Bronze Age. Some individual burials have been recorded in Warwickshire although cemeteries have not been found as yet.

- 3.2.8 The Study Area contains no known heritage assets of certain Iron Age date.
- 3.2.9 The Study Area does however contain four heritage assets of possible Iron Age date (although they may also be of Roman date):
- LBS003: Stoneton, north of Fox Covert; cropmark; possible settlement
 - LBS011: Wormleighton; cropmark, possible enclosure
 - LBS084: Long Itchington, Wood Farm; cropmark, possible settlement
 - LBS102: Windmill Hill, Ladbroke; possible enclosure
- 3.2.10 While evidence for this period across the West Midlands and Warwickshire increases in comparison with the Bronze Age, the only known, certainly dated evidence for activity within the Study Area is the find of a single Iron Age coin near Southam (probably from the industrial estate straddling the B4461). Iron Age coins have also been found close to the Study Area in the Tach Brook valley, near Chesterton.
- 3.2.11 No Iron Age hillforts are known close to the Study Area although there are examples along the Jurassic ridge to the south-west at Edge Hill and Burton Dassett (10 and 6km away respectively) and at Arbury Banks, Chipping Warden (6.5km south of Wormleighton). There are also hillforts at Oakley Wood, Bishops Tachbrook (9km to the west), and at Wappenbury to the north overlooking the River Nene (5.5km away). These often long-lived sites probably represent some form of territorial focus and it is reasonable to assume that the Study Area would have fallen into one or more of these.
- 3.2.12 The most dominant form of settlement type during the Iron Age (and the Bronze Age before it) was the single farmstead, probably the focus for an extended family unit. Previously largely open and unenclosed, they became more defined by boundary ditches and associated field enclosures into the Iron Age. There are no examples of Iron Ages sites excavated within the Study Area but excavated examples are known from the north of the Study Area within the Avon Valley. Iron Age pottery recovered from the excavation of a medieval building in Napton on the Hill also suggests Iron Age occupation there. Known farmsteads elsewhere in the West Midlands have tended to be identified (or at least suggested) by cropmarks that show on the well-drained soils of river valleys and others have been located during development.
- 3.2.13 Within the Study Area there are four cropmark sites that might be of Iron Age date and might indicate the location of settlement or related agricultural activities. These include: cropmarks of circular and rectilinear enclosures at Boddington, located just south of the border of the Ladbroke and Southam CFA; a single large, sub-divided square/rectangular enclosure that may represent settlement activity or a stock enclosure, at Stoneton (LBS003); two small square enclosures north of Ufton/Long

¹⁹ Palmer in prep, cited in Hurst, 2011.

Itchington wood (LBS084) that could also have either a settlement or agricultural function; and a possible enclosure at Wormleighton (LBS011). An undated complex of features has also recently been identified through geophysical survey in arable fields at Windmill Hill, Ladbroke (LBS102). This site includes possible small enclosures that may relate to occupation or agricultural use. Little evidence has been found for Iron Age mortuary practices within the West Midlands. Some of the Bronze Age barrows above may have continued in use into the Iron Age but flat cemeteries become more common in this period and examples have been found close to the later Roman town of Chesterton (8km south-west of Southam).

- 3.2.14 During the Iron Age mineral salt resources in and around Droitwich, Worcestershire, began to be exploited. These would have required, as they did later in Roman and medieval periods, networks for distribution across central England. It is possible that the salt way (LBS024) on the border between Wormleighton and Radbourne may have originated in this period.

3.3 Romano-British AD43-410

- 3.3.1 The Study Area contains no known heritage assets of certain Roman date.
- 3.3.2 In comparison to the south of England there is a general shortage of evidence for Roman settlement, structure and artefact types in the West Midlands²⁰.
- 3.3.3 The West Midlands sits on the boundary between the extensively settled south of Britain in the south and east of the region and the militarised north in the north and west. The Avon valley for example appears to have been culturally more akin to southern and eastern Britain with more extensive civilian settlements and fewer military sites. The region is rich in minerals as well as agricultural land and this lead to the area being extensively exploited in the Roman period. Most of this exploitation appears to be located in the south and west of the region and away from the Study Area.
- 3.3.4 Although the Study Area does not contain any assets of certain Roman date, it does contain three heritage assets of possible Roman date (although they may also be of Iron Age date –see above).
- LBS003: Stoneton, north of Fox Covert; cropmark; possible settlement;
 - LBS084: Long Itchington, Wood Farm; cropmark, possible settlement; and
 - LBS102: Windmill Hill, Ladbroke; possible enclosure.
- 3.3.5 A small number of Roman period finds have been made within the Study Area including:
- a possible Roman burial at Wormleighton (HER 1307);
 - Roman pottery recovered from the area of the deserted medieval settlement at Radbourne (HER 5184); and

²⁰ Esmonde Cleary, S. (2011), The Romano-British period: an assessment, In Watt, S., ed., *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research*. Oxbow Books: Oxford.

- Roman coins from south of Southam (HER 765).

- 3.3.6 The Study Area lies to the south of the early Roman boundary and road the Fosse Way, with Watling Street to the north-west. Forts and nucleated settlements lie along the main roads (e.g. Alcester and Mancetter) and a fort with extra mural settlement was located on the Fosse Way at Chesterton 5.5 km to the south-west of the Study Area. It is probable that much of the land within and around the Study Area had been cleared of forest by the early part of the Roman period if not by the late Iron Age. It is likely that a network of small farmsteads fully exploited the resulting arable, pasture and woodland resources, with connections to local market centres/administrative such as Chesterton. However, evidence for rural settlements is uneven with few well-excavated sites or well-understood landscapes.
- 3.3.7 Up to 22 possible villa sites have been located in the south of the county with sites recorded close to the Study Area at Chesterton, Burton Dasset, and Radford Semele. At Long Itchington, to the north of the Study Area, a possible villa or farmstead site exists at Snowford in the Itchen valley, (with field systems extending at least 500m along the valley to the south and a second settlement area close by to the west). At Pounce Hill, Radford Semele, possibly the best evidence for a villa type building has also been partly excavated, with tesserae, painted wall plaster and stone founded building set around a courtyard.
- 3.3.8 These 'villa' sites have been little investigated while lower status farmsteads, which are the most common settlement form, have had even less work undertake on them. Outside of the Study Area within the Itchen catchment occasional finds of Roman pottery and metalwork testify to activity in the area but do not allow any definitive understanding of the pattern of land use or settlement at the time. To the north of Southam, cropmark enclosures at Stockton are associated with Roman finds (including a possible coin hoard and finds of pottery), and might indicate a farmstead. Significant find concentrations indicating settlement are also located at Priors Hardwick, Ladbroke, and Harbury. At Fenny Compton there are two possible sites, one including finds of pottery wasters suggesting a nearby kiln.
- 3.3.9 Within the Study Area in contrast to the south of the county there is very little evidence for Roman activity. The Wormleighton burial is poorly provenanced and recorded and the finds at Southam and Radbourne can probably only be taken to indicate settlement nearby. The three cropmark sites are undated and are given a tentative Roman date only on the basis of being similar in type to excavated examples elsewhere. The finds at Radbourne are interesting in that they come from a later medieval settlement and may suggest a Roman phase of occupation on that site (also indicated at other deserted sites such as Watergall, and historic village sites at Napton on the Hill, Harbury and Ufton).

3.4 Early medieval AD410-1066

- 3.4.1 The early medieval period is one of the least visible periods in the country, archaeologically.
- 3.4.2 However, one heritage asset of early medieval date is known within the Study Area:
- LBS024: Wormleighton; Trackway/Salt Way and ford, mentioned in Anglo

Saxon charter dated AD956²¹, wherein King Eadwig grants Aelfhere 10 hides of land at Wormleighton²².

- 3.4.3 By the late Roman period the landscape of the Study Area would have been fully opened up for farming, with regular dispersed farmsteads sitting within their fields. The departure of the Romans would have brought widespread social and economic change²³, with local populations continuing with their own cultures and traditions. The best evidence for this is in the relatively dense distribution of pagan Anglo Saxon graves identified along the Avon valley to the north and west, through Warwickshire and Worcestershire (e.g. Bidford, Alveston, Baginton and Wasperton)²⁴.
- 3.4.4 There are no known early medieval burials within the Study Area, though they have been found in the region nearby. These include a number of burials found in the Leam, Itchen and Dene Valleys, and along the Jurassic ridge to the south. There is also a particular concentration of barrows in the lower Itchen valley close to the northern end of the Study Area. One of which, excavated at Long Itchington in 1876, was reported as containing two burials accompanied by a 'shield-boss, knife, spearheads and brooches'. Another burial site in Long Itchington was also excavated in the late nineteenth century and contained an urn and fragments of human bone. Just to the north of Southam, in Stockton, a third barrow contained spearheads, a javelin and knife, while a fourth in Marton contained at least two burials with swords, spears and knives. This suggests that pagan Anglo Saxons had clearly penetrated into areas adjacent to the Study Area.
- 3.4.5 Settlement sites from the early medieval period are much more difficult to identify across the region. Early settlements may have been small scale, dispersed, short-lived and mobile, leaving few traces in the ground. Where they are found, traces are ephemeral, with few artefacts. Sites are difficult to prospect for and locate, and none are known within the Study Area, with only one example close by, within the Itchen valley at Snowford, Long Itchington. Here crop marks clearly show the location of a number of large rectangular timber halls suggestive of a high status, possibly royal site. Other early Saxon settlement may survive beneath modern villages or deserted medieval settlements and although the latter are frequently associated with finds of Roman pottery, suggesting continuity, few have been investigated to identify if they have evidence of early or middle Saxon activity.
- 3.4.6 As the early medieval period progressed the previously dispersed settlement pattern developed into one of larger nucleated settlements surrounded by open fields. This late Saxon landscape is captured in Domesday and is, in many respects, the landscape of villages we see today. The process by which this occurred is poorly understood but is generally thought to have been propelled by factors such as change and fragmentation in the structure of large estates and the pressure to increase agricultural yields²⁵. Within the Study Area, the HER references Saxon boundary

²¹ Hooke, D. (1999), *Warwickshire Anglo Saxon Charter Bounds*. Boydell Press: Woodbridge.

²² The Prosopography of Anglo-Saxon England, www.pase.ac.uk.

²³ Esmonde Clearey 2011.

²⁴ Hooke, D. (2011), The post-Roman and the early medieval periods in the west midlands: a potential archaeological agenda. In: Watt, S, ed., *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research*. Oxbow Books: Oxford.

²⁵ Dyer, C. (1996), Rural settlements in medieval Warwickshire. *Transactions of the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society*, 100, pp. 117-132.

charters for Wormleighton, Southam and Long Itchington²⁶. As the villages have continued to be used (though Wormleighton suffering from some degree of shrinkage, desertion and relocation) later Saxon settlements probably lie underneath the modern villages and towns. This may also be the case at deserted settlements such as Stoneton, Radbourne and Stoney Thorpe. No research has been done in villages local to the Study Area to determine when sites were first occupied but elsewhere in the Feldon pottery dates appear to indicate settlements were established in the 10th or 11th centuries²⁷.

- 3.4.7 The single heritage asset of Anglo Saxon date within the Study Area is a trackway (LBS024). This trackway marked the boundary between Wormleighton and Radbourne and is mentioned in an Anglo Saxon charter²⁸. The track can be traced well beyond the Study Area and appears to have been a Salt Way linking the salt production centre at Droitwich with markets in the east of England. The trackway crosses a small stream at Wilma's Ford this is also mentioned in the same charter and includes a personal name also found in the original Anglo Saxon form of Wormleighton.

3.5 Medieval AD1066-1540

- 3.5.1 The medieval period saw a steady growth in population, the expansion of settlements, the development of the manorial system and the growth in power of the church²⁹ together with the attendant development of parishes.

- 3.5.2 Both nucleated and dispersed forms of settlement were present across the West Midlands region in the medieval period³⁰. Small nucleated settlements in Warwickshire were developing from at least the 11th century³¹. A network of small towns developed between the 12th and 14th centuries³². Parish churches clearly developed in this period, although the date of foundation of many remains uncertain³³. Moats were also established in this period alongside a process of assarting, the creation of newly cultivated land from woodland³⁴. Moated sites are present across much of the West Midlands, which were high status settlements, some of which were associated with manorial complexes, others with farmsteads^{35, 36}. Mills are frequently recorded in documentary sources, although few have been identified through archaeological excavation³⁷. There are 12 heritage assets of medieval date within the Study Area:

- LBS007: Stoneton; deserted medieval settlement;
- LBS013: Wormleighton; deserted medieval settlement (Scheduled Monument

²⁶ Hooke, D. (1999), *Warwickshire Anglo Saxon Charter Bounds*. Boydell Press: Woodbridge.

²⁷ Hunt 2011.

²⁸ Hooke 1999.

²⁹ Hunt 2011.

³⁰ Hunt, J. (2011), Whose handmaiden? Historical and archaeological approaches to the Middle Ages. In: Watt, S., ed., *The Archaeology of the West Midlands; a framework for research*. Oxbow Books: Oxford.

³¹ *ibid.* 176-9.

³² Palmer, N. (2003), Warwickshire (and Solihull) – the Medieval period. *WMRRFA Seminar 5: Medieval Period*. 24 February 2003: Warwick.

³³ Hunt 2011, 201-2.

³⁴ Hodder, M. (2004), *Birmingham: the Hidden History*. Tempus: Stroud.

³⁵ Hodder 2004.

³⁶ Hunt 2011, 196-7.

³⁷ Hunt 2011, 189.

No' 1016438);

- LBS033: Radbourne; earthwork ponds/enclosures;
- LBS035: Radbourne; deserted medieval settlement;
- LBS044: Ladbroke; ridge-and-furrow;
- LBS045: Ladbroke; ridge-and-furrow;
- LBS046: Ladbroke; enclosed fields and surviving ridge-and-furrow;
- LBS049: Ladbroke; surviving ridge-and-furrow and earthwork field boundaries;
- LBS072: Southam; surviving ridge-and-furrow;
- LBS069: Long Itchington; Stoney Thorpe deserted medieval settlement;
- LBS078: Long Itchington; surviving ridge-and-furrow; and
- LBS071: Long Itchington; surviving ridge-and-furrow.

3.5.3 In addition there are seven heritage assets of medieval/post medieval date within the Study Area:

- LBS002: Stoneton/Boddington; surviving ridge-and-furrow, earthworks and cropmarks in the area of Fox Covert and Berryhill plantation;
- LBS048: Ladbroke; historic settlement;
- LBS063: Southam; historic settlement;
- LBS066: Southam; Holy Well (scheduled monument);
- LBS076: Long Itchington; Thorpe Rough ancient woodland, (designated Ancient Woodland);
- LBS082: Ufton/Long Itchington; ancient woodland including earthwork landscape boundaries, (designated Ancient Woodland); and
- LBS094: Long Itchington; Print Wood, ancient woodland, (designated Ancient Woodland).

3.5.4 There is good evidence for medieval settlement and agriculture from the Study Area. Southern Warwickshire, and the Feldon area in particular (in contrast to the more wooded Arden, to the north), were intensively cultivated and capable of sustaining large populations through into the later medieval period. A recent English Heritage survey of medieval settlement described the area as 'the heart of village England, champion country par excellence'³⁸. The area was heavily depopulated at the end of the medieval period as many villages were abandoned, fields enclosed and estates turned over to extensive pasture for grazing. This process preserved the former villages, and their open fields of ridge-and-furrow, as earthworks, fossilised within the new grasslands. Parts of this survive today although much has been lost to ploughing since the Second World War as land has been returned to arable. Where these

³⁸ Roberts, B.K., and Wrathmell, S. (2000), *An Atlas of Rural Settlement in England*. English Heritage: London.

earthworks have been damaged, they are often visible on aerial photographs, either in a more pristine state before the damage took place, or as crop or soil marks in the modern fields.

- 3.5.5 During the medieval period the Study Area was largely rural in character. There was no urban centre, although Southam, which is mentioned in the Domesday survey, did have a market from 1227 and would have acted as a minor local centre³⁹. While there are no high status sites similar to those at nearby Warwick and Kenilworth, there is evidence for moated sites within most of the village/earthwork complexes within the Study Area. While there are village churches there are no large ecclesiastical establishments similar to Stoneleigh to the North, although the medieval religious site of the Holy Well at Southam (LBS066) is worth noting.
- 3.5.6 All of the modern villages within the Study Area existed during the medieval period. Only a very small part of the southern extent of Southam runs into the Study Area and only the eastern edge of Ladbroke. Within both these areas remains of medieval date might be expected to survive, but only in Ladbroke has this been confirmed by limited excavation. Other than Southam where twentieth century development has obscured earlier parts of the town, all villages local to the Study Area show evidence for having been more extensive – with areas of earthworks showing the location of previously occupied and now abandoned land.
- 3.5.7 The village of Wormleighton also sits beyond the edge of the Study Area, but an earlier deserted part to the north is well preserved in earthworks. This is designated as a Scheduled Monument, the eastern edge of which runs into the Study Area. Within the wider Study Area and its immediate surrounding area there are further deserted settlements at Ascote, Hodnell and Watergall, and at Nether Itchington.
- 3.5.8 Within or encroaching onto the Study Area there are the remains of three deserted settlements, Stoneton (LBS007), Lower Radbourne (LBS035), and Stoney Thorpe (LBS069). At Stoneton ploughing has destroyed much of the former village but the moat survives, with a later house constructed on the island, together with a field of well-preserved earthworks. At Lower Radbourne the village has been almost totally destroyed by ploughing but cropmarks on aerial photographs indicate elements survive beneath the ploughsoil. At Stoney Thorpe in Long Itchington, the small hamlet on the western bank of the Itchen survives as low earthworks within the later park.
- 3.5.9 Despite the high level of survival and associated documentary information, excavated evidence is extremely rare. No excavation or field survey has been carried out within the Study Area and close by only very limited evidence has been uncovered as part of development-led watching briefs and evaluation (e.g. a medieval ditch excavated in Ladbroke and minor observations in Southam, Napton on the Hill and Priors Hardwick recorded on the Warwickshire HER). Two watching briefs have been undertaken at Wormleighton deserted settlement. On both occasions negative results were recorded.

³⁹ Salzman, L.F. ed. (1951), *A History of the County of Warwickshire*. Victoria County History, Volume 6, Knightlow Hundred. Institute of Historic Research: London.

- 3.5.10 Further afield large-scale excavation of a medieval rural settlement has taken place at Burton Dassett to the south-west, where twenty stone built houses ranged in date from the 13th to 15th centuries⁴⁰. Further away at Coton near Nuneaton a similar number of buildings were founded in 10th/11th centuries and deserted in the 13th/14th centuries⁴¹.
- 3.5.11 Despite late medieval to modern enclosure and amalgamation and alteration, evidence for medieval field systems still survive in the pattern of modern fields within the Study Area. Particularly good examples of well-preserved and highly legible medieval open fields can be seen at Ladbroke (LBS100). Areas of former woodland, illustrating a pattern of woodland assarting and later encroachment into common land, can also be seen at Long Itchington Wood and Print Wood (LBS101). Both represent important periods of change within this area of Warwickshire, where a loss of woodland and the enclosure of former open fields altered the landscape during the medieval and post medieval periods.
- 3.5.12 Map regression using early Ordnance Survey and earlier tithe and estate maps demonstrates that some of the modern field boundaries represent far older boundaries. Map regression also shows a more complete pattern of earlier fields that has now been lost on the ground. Some of the earlier boundaries also survive as low earthworks visible using LiDAR survey and as crop/soil marks visible on aerial photographs. Ridge-and-furrow strips within the fields survive as earthworks in a number of places within the Study Area and also show up particularly well on aerial photographs.
- 3.5.13 Relict field boundaries of possible medieval date (although many of these could equally be post medieval) survive as earthworks in the Study Area at:
- east of Wormleighton to the Oxford Canal, possibly as a result of the creation of large arable fields through amalgamation (LBS002);
 - east and north of Ladbroke (LBS044, LBS045, LBS046);
 - north of Harp Farm to the west of the A423 (LBS049);
 - within Ufton/Long Itchington Wood (LBS082); and
 - Long Itchington Wood and Print wood (LBS101).
- 3.5.14 Ridge-and-furrow survives as earthworks in five areas:
- within woodland and fields at Fox Covert/Berryhill Plantation (LBS002);
 - at Ladbroke Grove Farm and north towards Windmill Hill, Ladbroke (LBS044 and LBS045);
 - east and NE of Ladbroke village to Harp Farm (LBS049);
 - on the west bank of the Itchen close to Lower Farm and Stoney Thorpe (LBS072);

⁴⁰ Palmer, Nicholas, and C. Dyer (1988), An Inscribed Stone from Burton Dassett, Warwickshire. *Medieval Archaeology* 32, 216-19.

⁴¹ Hunt 2011.

- at Bascote Heath (LBS078); and
- at Ladbroke Open fields (LBS100).

- 3.5.15 Evidence for the medieval landscape can also be obtained from documentary sources, such as field names. For example mills are often referred to indirectly in field names on estate and enclosure maps. At Wormleighton, 'mill' names appear to the east of the village and survive today in Windmill Spinney, with two mill sites tentatively suggested by the HER on this field name evidence alone. To the west of Ladbroke is Windmill Hill and this is surrounded by 'mill' names on an estate map of 1775. There is no known trace on the ground for either of these structures.
- 3.5.16 The medieval road system survives in many of the modern routes between settlements but relict parts of this system can also be seen on historic maps connecting the now deserted settlements, and some of these survive as public rights of way (e.g. Lower Radbourne). A map of the Spencer estate in 1634 also shows a road running from Wormleighton to Stoneton Manor that has since disappeared, being replaced by the Leisure Drive at some point in the later nineteenth century. The Salt Way running along the boundary between Wormleighton and Radbourne, still in use today, would have remained an important route from the Saxon period, and it is likely that the Welsh Road largely running to the east of the Study Area but entering it to the north of Long Itchington Wood originates as a medieval drove road running from the north-west to markets in the south.
- 3.5.17 Although the Study Area contains relatively little woodland there are three areas of designated Ancient Woodland in the northern part of the Study Area:
- LBS076: Thorpe Rough in Long Itchington;
 - LBS082: Ufton/Long Itchington Wood; and
 - LBS094: Print Wood, Long Itchington.
- 3.5.18 These are defined by Natural England as woodland in existence before 1600 although the date of the creation of the woodland is unclear. At Ufton/Long Itchington Wood LiDAR survey indicates that the present boundaries of the wood enclose areas of previous medieval cultivation on its southern side. LiDAR also shows a number of linear boundaries within the woodland, which could represent earlier fields. The parish boundary running north to south through the wood, and parts of the northern and southern boundaries are marked by substantial banks with ditches on either side.
- 3.5.19 Elsewhere, some of the spinneys and coverts could preserve small parts of once more extensive tracts of wood, although it is likely that most of these are later plantations (e.g. Ladbroke Fox Covert to the West of Ladbroke Grove Farm, where LiDAR survey has shown ridge-and-furrow survives within the woodland). Multiple 'holt' field names to the north of Ladbroke Hill Farm, just over the parish boundary into Southam, suggest an area of possible woodland grazing, on the edge of open fields.

3.6 Post medieval AD1540-1901

- 3.6.1 There are ten heritage assets of post medieval date within the Study Area:
- LBS019: Wormleighton, the Oxford Canal;

- LBS023: Wormleighton, Church Farm, the site of demolished farmstead;
- LBS032: Radbourne, Lower Radbourne, the site of demolished farmstead;
- LBS055: Southam, Harp Farm, the site of possible brick works;
- LBS058: Ladbroke/Southam, a turnpike road, the A423 Banbury to Southam;
- LBS059: Southam, a turnpike road, the B4451;
- LBS068: Southam/Long Itchington, a designed landscape around Stoney Thorpe Hall;
- LBS077: Ufton/Southam, a turnpike road, the A425 Warwick to Northampton;
- LBS092: Ufton, the Grand Union Canal; and
- LBS091: Ufton/Long Itchington, a historic routeway.

3.6.2 In addition there are six heritage assets of medieval/post medieval date within the Study Area (discussed above section 3.5.3):

- LBS048: Ladbroke historic settlement;
- LBS063: Southam historic settlement;
- LBS066: Southam, the Holy Well (scheduled monument);
- LBS076: Long Itchington, Thorpe Rough ancient woodland, (designated Ancient Woodland);
- LBS082: Ufton/Long Itchington; ancient woodland including earthwork landscape boundaries, (Designated Ancient Woodland); and
- LBS094: Long Itchington, Print Wood ancient woodland, (designated Ancient Woodland).

3.6.3 The post medieval period saw the enclosure of the landscape, at first on a piecemeal basis, and later, from the 18th century onwards, on a more rigid pattern under the Enclosure Acts and Commons Acts of 1773 to 1882, which allowed the land-owner or tenant to improve the land in ways not formerly possible. The period also saw changes involving the re-colonisation of marginal land, improvement of meadow systems and sophisticated woodland management⁴². The onset of the industrial revolution affected all parts of the country, changing the face of both the landscape and the population. There were new types of buildings and structures and landscapes were exploited at levels not seen before. The period also witnessed a movement of people to more industrialised areas.

3.6.4 Throughout this period the character of the Study Area remained fundamentally rural. The impacts of plague and forced enclosure during the late medieval period had already begun the transformation of the landscape from one of intensively settled nucleated villages, surrounded by their open strip fields, into one of relative

⁴² Belford, P. (2011), 'The archaeology of everything' – grappling with post-medieval, industrial and contemporary archaeology. In Watt, S., ed., *The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research*. Oxbow Books: Oxford.

depopulation, enclosure and extensive pasture. The process of early enclosure by 'agreement' was continued into the 16th and 17th centuries and is documented on numerous estate and tithe maps. The physical evidence for this process is preserved in fragments of the medieval field systems surviving as earthworks (described above in section 3.5.12) and in the layout of the modern fields (LBS100). In places these preserve the early enclosures of smaller fields, aligned to the sinuous former headland boundaries (for example to the east of Ladbroke (LBS049). Elsewhere more regular geometric enclosures testify to later 18th and 19th century parliamentary enclosure. The creation of larger arable fields in the later 20th century still took place within this earlier framework and many of the boundaries of these later fields can still be traced on estate plans of the 17th and 18th centuries (as at Wormleighton, Radbourne and Ufton).

- 3.6.5 Along with changes in the organisation of the agricultural landscape resulting from enclosure, changes in settlement type and pattern occurred during this period. The medieval nucleated villages become fewer in number and many of those that survived had become shrunken or had shifted site (e.g. Wormleighton and Ladbroke). Equally important was the shift of farm sites from within the villages, out into the newly enclosed landscape. The Study Area is now characterised by this pattern of closely dispersed farmsteads, all probably originating during this period. More recent consolidation of land holdings has lead to a thinning out of this pattern. In some cases sites have become abandoned (e.g. Radbourne, LBS035) or they have lost their habitative element and becoming solely the site of operational building such as barns (e.g. Church Farm, Wormleighton, LBS013).
- 3.6.6 The Study Area is crossed by numerous transport routes of various types. Some of these originate in the medieval or earlier periods and are discussed above. The major development in the post medieval period was the establishment of the canals and turnpike roads through the Study Area. The Oxford Canal (LBS019) running through the southern part of the Study Area, opened in 1790, and the Grand Union Canal (LBS092), providing the northern boundary to the Study Area, was opened in 1800. This network of canals provided the area with a connection to regions to the south and north, bringing in goods and providing an outlet for local products. The turnpike roads (LBS058, LBS059 and LBS077) served much the same purpose. Both the canals and the roads come with a suite of physical infrastructure such as distance markers, bridges, wharves and locks and they often attracted new settlement and industry.
- 3.6.7 Industry in the Study Area primarily consisted of the extractive industries; limestone in the Southam area, first for agricultural lime and then for cement, and at a lesser scale, and perhaps more widespread, the extraction of clay for brick making.
- 3.6.8 One large extraction site is known in the Study Area. This is located within Ufton to the south of Monkey Barn Farm and is now a landfill site. Much of the ground has already been backfilled and re-instated and it is likely that extraction will have lead to the destruction of any earlier archaeological remains.
- 3.6.9 Across the south and central areas of the Study Area, where clay predominates, there are occasional references to brick kilns and brick fields within the HER. One of these lies within the Study Area at the site of the modern Harp Farm (LBS055).

- 3.6.10 Closely linked to the agricultural use of the landscape is the infrastructure associated with country pursuits. In the Study Area this relates principally to fox hunting, which developed in Britain from the 18th century. Evidence for this is found in the naming of a number of small areas on historic and modern maps as 'covert' (most explicitly Fox Covert in the south-west corner of the Study Area) and 'spinney', both used to describe woodland used to shelter game.

3.7 20th century/modern AD1901-present

- 3.7.1 The 20th century saw the continued rapid expansion of industrial centres such as Coventry and Rugby as well as smaller settlements such as Leamington. The growing population of the region, combined with the development of commuting also saw a rapid rise in the populations of some of the small nucleated settlements with the establishment of small areas of private and social housing (e.g. the eastern fringes of Ladbroke and the southern side of Southam). Commercial and industrial development has also developed along some of the main roads, in particular around Southam.
- 3.7.2 In the post war period, agricultural land holding was further consolidated, and fields amalgamated, with arable cultivation now predominating. Military sites particularly from the WWII period are a notable feature.. Nationally much of the information on military sites has been collected by the Defence of Britain project. Individual features such as pill boxes and gun batteries are identified within the Warwickshire HER, although none appear within the Study Area. A large area on the eastern side of the Study Area is, however, identified as being within a bombing range. The land is now under cultivation and there do not appear to be any features surviving at the surface.

4 Built heritage

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This section provides baseline information relating to built heritage assets within the land required for construction, 500m Study Area and wider 2km Study Area. The section provides the following information:
- a broad overview of the character and form of the settlement pattern and key assets within the CFA;
 - detailed descriptions of all built heritage assets wholly or partially within the land required for construction; and
 - detailed descriptions of key designated assets within the 500m Study Area.
- 4.1.2 Information on designated assets within the 2km Study Area, but outside of the 500m Study Area, and information on undesignated assets within the 500m Study Area can be found in the Gazetteer in Appendix CH-002-016.

4.2 Overview of settlement character

General

- 4.2.1 The general character of the Study Area is one of rolling lowland countryside, much of it arable farmland. Fields tend to be small to medium sized and are of a well defined geometric pattern. Settlement is largely made up of dispersed hamlets and farmsteads, along with compact villages and towns sited on hill and ridgetops, hill sides and along narrow valley bottoms.
- 4.2.2 Only two principal settlements lie within the Study Area, Ladbroke and Southam. Of these only the eastern part of Ladbroke and the southern edge of Southam lie within the Study Area. Wormleighton lies outside the Study Area.

Ladbroke

- 4.2.3 The earliest known record of Ladbroke is from AD 998, when King Æthelred II granted lands at Southam, Ladbroke and Radbourne to Leofwine, Ealdorman of the Hwicce⁴³. References made to Ladbroke in the Domesday survey indicate that it was quite a large settlement at this time. The parish church of All Saints dates from the 13th century. Most of the common lands of Ladbroke parish had been enclosed by the end of the 16th century. Ladbroke has also been identified by English Heritage as an area of priority⁴⁴ for the preservation/ management of ridge-and-furrow.
- 4.2.4 The HER records the possible extent of the medieval settlement, including the deserted settlement and the shrunken settlement, based on the first edition 6" map of 1886, 40SE, and on the remains of ridge-and-furrow recorded from aerial photographs. The 1886 map shows a dispersed village with relatively few buildings and lots of trees and spinneys and some orchards, which may suggests a decrease in the population. The ridge-and-furrow survival on aerial photos is seen to surround the

⁴³ www.pace.ac.uk.

⁴⁴ Hall, 2001.

village, and helps to define a boundary which is otherwise unclear. The earlier medieval core may lie to west of Study Area around the Church and Ladbroke Hall. The present eastern and northern part of village appears to be largely post medieval and modern, but may contain medieval elements indicated by earthwork remains (including possible fishponds and excavated medieval ditch).

Southam

- 4.2.5 Southam is mentioned in the Domesday survey as 'Sucham'. A market was established in 1227 and the Church of St James dates from the 14th century. Only the southern part of Southam, along the Warwick Road, extends into the Study Area and although this is marked as part of the historic core on the HER there is only evidence for twentieth century housing development and the focus for medieval/post medieval settlement lay further to the north, and in particular on the north bank of the River Sow.

4.3 Built heritage assets within the land required for construction

Barn off Leisure Drive (LBS004)

- 4.3.1 An undesignated long red brick barn with pitched corrugated iron roof and open front facing south. It pre-dates the 1884 OS map.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.2 The significance of the asset lies in the evidential, historic and aesthetic value of its fabric. This is closely linked to its relationship with its agricultural use and context within a farmland landscape. The setting of the barn therefore contributes to its significance, in terms of its largely isolated position amongst farmland.

Farm building c300m east of Windmill Spinney (LBS017)

- 4.3.3 An undesignated rectangular barn, of red brick with a pitched roof, open to the south. It pre-dates the 1884 OS map.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.4 The significance of the asset lies in the evidential, historic and aesthetic value of its fabric. This is closely linked to its relationship with its agricultural use and context within a farmland landscape. The setting of the barn therefore contributes to its significance, in terms of its largely isolated position amongst farmland.

The Oxford Canal (LBS019)

- 4.3.5 The Oxford Canal was dug around 1800 and forms a notable feature in the wider landscape along this part of the route. The canal meanders north-eastwards across the proposed route to the north-east of Wormleighton, before zig-zagging northwards to join the Grand Union Canal 3 miles east of Southam.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.6 The significance of the asset lies in its evidential, historic and aesthetic value both as a historic asset and as a landscape feature in its own right. Its significance is therefore closely linked to its relationship with its surrounding context, both in terms of setting and associated features and assets.

Church Farm, 1.8km north of Wormleighton (LBS023)

- 4.3.7 An undesignated long rectangular agricultural range of two conjoined elements, visible on the 1884 OS map. A second range at right angles to the south-east has disappeared since 1983.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.8 The significance of the asset lies in the evidential, historic and aesthetic values of its fabric. This is linked to its relationship with its agricultural use and context within a wider agricultural landscape. The setting of the barn therefore contributes to its significance, in terms of its position amongst an agricultural context.

Chapel Bank Cottage

- 4.3.9 Cottage and nearby building located north of the remains of a series of medieval fishponds. The dressed stone of the cottage may come from the nearby medieval church, demolished in or before 1881. The cottage itself may be early 20th century.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.10 The significance of the asset lies in the evidential, historic and aesthetic values of its fabric. The cottage's secluded setting within a woodland clearing surrounded by farmland contributes to its significance.

Field Cottage, Coventry Road (LBS061)

- 4.3.11 This is an undesignated pale brick gothic cottage of 1.5 storeys, with polychrome voussoirs. It pre-dates the 1887 OS map and stands on the main road at the entrance to the drive to The Field House. It sits directly on the boundary of the land required for construction.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.12 The significance of these assets lies in the evidential, historic and aesthetic value of their fabric, and group value as a historic farm. Its setting by the drive to The Fields House makes a minor contribution also. The house is screened to the north and west by mature trees and a hedge screens it partly from the main road to the east. The setting to the north-east consists of a short stretch of agricultural land before reaching the industrial estate on the Kineton Road, and therefore makes a lower contribution to significance than the more rural setting to the south-east and south.

Stoney Thorpe Hall Lodge gates and gatepiers (LBS096)

- 4.3.13 These are Grade II Listed 17th century squared coursed lias gatepiers with plinths, moulded eaves cornices and ball finials. They were restored in the 19th century when the present iron gates were installed. The asset would stand within the land required for construction, which would necessitate its removal to enable the construction phase of the works.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.14 The significance of the asset lies in the evidential, historic and aesthetic value of their fabric. The asset's setting, along the main road and at the head of the formal drive leading north-east to Stoney Thorpe Hall, also makes a contribution to their

significance. The wider setting towards the south-west comprises a roadside hedge with agricultural fields beyond is more subsidiary to the assets significance.

Thorpe Bridge, Leamington Road, west of Southam (LBS073)

- 4.3.15 The HER notes that this was the probable site of the historic Thorpe Bridge. However no remains of that bridge are evident and the modern bridge has no heritage value.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.16 Its setting comprises agricultural fields to the south-west, Stoneythorpe Park to the north-east, and the river Itchen in both directions. This setting therefore adds to the low overall significance of this structure.

Grand Union Canal Lock, Welsh Road (LBS092)

- 4.3.17 This is a concrete and stone lock with timber gates. It pre-dates the 1887 OS map and was probably built around 1800 as part of the Warwick and Napton Canal, which was incorporated into the Grand Union Canal in 1929. It was significantly altered in the 20th century, when the original lock was blocked and a new wider lock created on the site of the former overflow.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.3.18 The significance of the asset lies in the remaining evidential and historic value of its surviving early fabric. The setting on the Grand Union Canal contributes to the assets significance, although the nearby 20th century lockkeeper's cottage and the concrete road bridge make a much smaller contribution to significance. The wider setting is screened from the lock in all directions by trees along the canal and Welsh Road, as well as the asset's position below the level of the surrounding countryside.

4.4 Key assets within 500m of the land required for construction

Holy Well, Southam (LBS066)

- 4.4.1 The site of the holy well is a scheduled ancient monument and Grade II listed. It dates to the medieval period and is located c800m west of the church of St James, Southam. The well may possibly mark the site of a small medieval religious community. Although dry now, the water originally rose in a shallow semi-circular tank about 15 or 20 cm in diameter. It has fragments of a base and cornice of Classical character. The water flows away from the tank through three mutilated masks of carved stone, one of which wears a curled wig. The stonework dates to the 18th/19th century with 20th century restoration.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.2 The significance of the asset lies in the evidential, historic and aesthetic value of its fabric. The assets setting, which lies on the side of the Stowe valley above the Stowe and set adjacent to a small woodland copse, also makes a contribution to its significance, providing a sense of seclusion and degree of tranquillity.

Wormleighton Conservation Area (LBS012)

- 4.4.3 The conservation area covers Wormleighton village, including the parish church of St Peter (Grade I), a manor house (Grade II*), several farms and a number of stone

houses (many listed Grade II* or II). It also extends over the site of the deserted medieval village on lower ground to the northwest, which is a scheduled monument.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.4 The significance of the conservation area primarily consists of the aesthetic and historical value derived from the architecture of the historic buildings and the character of the spaces between them, including open ground, gardens and the village streets. The earthworks of the lost village also add to the evidential and aesthetic value of its wider significance. A sense of remoteness, seclusion and tranquillity also add to the Conservation Areas significance, for which the conservation areas setting makes a significant contribution. As a historic farming village, the wider setting of rural fields also makes a contribution to the asset's significance. Although the asset is located on a hilltop, views out of the village are restricted by trees and hedges around the perimeter. The main long distance views are to the north-west and south. Consequently the surrounding fields forming the setting of the asset are mainly experienced from the roads outside the asset to west and east, and their contribution to overall significance is secondary.

The Church of St Peter, Wormleighton (LBS012)

- 4.4.5 The church is Grade I Listed. It is a largely unaltered medieval ironstone church with tower, nave, aisles and chancel. Originally dating to the early 12th century with fabric from the 13th century to early 16th century. The east and south walls were rebuilt 18th century. The interior includes an elaborate 15/16th century screen and 17th century fittings.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.6 The significance of the asset lies in the evidential, historic and aesthetic value of its fabric. Its significance is also derived from its setting within the historic churchyard containing listed monuments and historic gravestones, its group value with the historic manorial complex to the south, and its communal value as the village's historic place of worship. The principal approaches to and views of the church are from the south and north sides, while there is a screen of mature trees to the east, beyond which is another screen of smaller trees along the boundary with the wider farmland.
- 4.4.7 The trees and hedges surrounding the churchyard, and the buildings to the north, serve to prevent wider views of the landscape in all directions. Meanwhile the tower of the church is relatively low, such that it does not form a prominent feature in distant views of the village. Nonetheless the wider unseen setting, in the form of the asset's location within the village surrounded by countryside, makes a minor contribution to significance.

Wormleighton Manor house (LBS012)

- 4.4.8 The manor house is Grade II* Listed. A fragment of the manor house built c1512 for Earl John Spencer survives with a number of 17th century, 18th century and 19th century alterations. The building is now a farm house. The manor house is built of a mixture of brick (with some Tudor diaper work) and ironstone (ashlar and rubble), with a crenellated parapet. The principal elevations face south and north and in plan form the building is a double pile to east with a single pile wing to west.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.9 The significance of the asset lies in the evidential, historic and aesthetic value of its fabric; its group value, as part of the manorial complex, and landscape elements such as the walled garden. The immediate setting therefore plays a key role in this significance, but nearby trees, hedges and buildings inhibit wider views, especially to south, west and north. The garden to the east is bounded by a hedge and trees, closing off distant views.
- 4.4.10 The wider setting, in the form of the asset's location within the village surrounded by countryside, makes a minor contribution to significance.

Wormleighton Manor gatehouse (Tower Cottage) (LBS012)

- 4.4.11 The manor gatehouse is Grade II* Listed and are dated 1613 with later repairs and alterations. The buildings are of ironstone ashlar with moulded dressings and carved devices of the Willoughby and Spencer families, and Royal and Spencer arms. The building is 2 storeys with a 4 storey tower. The principal facades face north and south, and there are Tudor doors to the gateway.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.12 The significance of the asset lies in the evidential, historic and aesthetic value of its fabric, and its group value, as part of the manorial complex. The immediate setting therefore plays a key role in this significance, but nearby trees, hedges and buildings inhibit wider views, especially to south, east and north. The wider setting, in the form of the asset's location within the village surrounded by countryside, makes a minor contribution to significance.

Ladbroke Conservation Area (LBS048)

- 4.4.13 This conservation area includes the historic core of Ladbroke village, located on relatively flat land, through which a stream runs from southeast to northwest. The asset has two main parts: in the west are All Saints Church (Grade I), several farmsteads and Ladbroke Hall; to the east on the other side of open parkland are the majority of the village houses, arranged along and off of the main road. Most of the historic buildings date to the 16th-19th centuries, and are built of stone, timber and brick.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.14 The significance of the conservation area primarily consists of the aesthetic and historical value derived from the architecture of the historic buildings and the character of the spaces between them, including the parkland in the centre of the village, its winding tree-lined roads and the gardens and fields which surround it and are contained within the boundary of the asset. The evidential and aesthetic value of the earthworks of the lost village, located within the park, also add to the significance of its setting. As a historic farming village, the wider setting of undulating hedged farmland dotted with small woods makes a secondary contribution to the asset's significance. The landscape setting east of the conservation area is undermined by modern houses along Windmill Lane, and the bypass road beyond. This bypass is lined on both sides by trees and hedges that provide a solid screen.

The Church of All Saints, Ladbroke (LBS048)

- 4.4.15 The church is Grade I Listed. It is a lias and sandstone church originating in the 13th century, mostly rebuilt in the early 14th century with 15th century additions. It was restored in 1876 by Sir Gilbert Scott. The chancel is notable for two storeys of 2-light windows irregularly spaced. The tower of banded lias and limestone is 14th century.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.16 The significance of the asset lies in the evidential, historic and aesthetic value of its fabric; its setting within the historic churchyard containing listed monuments and historic gravestones, and from its communal value as the village's historic place of worship. The principal approach to the church is from the south, but the tower and east end are also prominent in views from the parkland to the east, which forms a major part of its setting. Trees lining the course of the Radbourne on the eastern side of the parkland run to the north-east and north of the asset, closing off more distant views in those directions.
- 4.4.17 To the west and south the setting of the church includes the Rectory, Church Cottage, farms and outbuildings, set within the wider rural landscape. This wider setting makes a secondary contribution to the asset's overall significance.
- 4.4.18 The tower of the church is surmounted by a tall spire which is prominent in distant views of Ladbroke from some directions. It is mostly screened to the east by the trees within the village and along the Radbourne, but is visible through trees from the A423 at certain points north of Ladbroke.

Southam Conservation Area (LBS063)

- 4.4.19 This conservation area includes the centre of Southam, covering the market place, parish church and a variety of stone, timber and brick buildings from the 16th-19th centuries along the central streets. Many of these buildings are listed.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.20 The significance of the conservation area primarily consists of the aesthetic and historical value derived from the architecture of the historic buildings and the character of the spaces between them. The dense streetscape around the old market place forms the eastern part of the conservation area. To the north, south and west are areas of more suburban post medieval development. In the southern part of the conservation area is the steep-sided valley of the river Stowe, which descends and then rises around 40m on each side, and includes several green spaces along its length. The wider setting outside the conservation area is made up of late 19th and 20th century suburban development, culminating to the south-west, south and east with the bypass road which is interspersed with roundabouts and lined with a dense screen of trees.

The Church of St James, Southam, (LBS063)

- 4.4.21 The church is Grade I listed. It is a 14th century church with further work dating from the 15th century, early 16th century and 19th century. It is built of coursed lias with sandstone dressings and sandstone clerestory and spire. It also has a 19th century vestry and 20th century kitchen extension. Fragments of medieval wall painting remain inside.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.22 The significance of the asset lies in the evidential, historic and aesthetic value of its fabric, and its communal value as the town's historic place of worship. Its setting within the historic churchyard in the middle of the town, and the prominence of its tall tower and spire in long views from the surrounding countryside, make secondary contributions to this significance.

The Fields House (LBS063)

- 4.4.23 The Fields House (Grade II) is an early 19th century three-storey brick house with some stone dressings, and a pyramidal hipped 20th century roof with brick stacks. The main front faces south and is of three bays with sash windows and a Gothic fanlight over the central door. To east and west are single-storey 19th century additions, while there is a colour-washed brick range to the rear (north).

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.24 The significance of the asset lies in the evidential, historic and aesthetic value of its fabric. The asset's setting which is secluded, being heavily screened by trees to the south, east and north, and by buildings (including a large modern shed) and trees to the north-west and west also contributes to its significance.

Stoney Thorpe Lodge (LBS068)

- 4.4.25 This is a stone lodge building of two storeys, in a Tudor or Jacobean style matching Stoney Thorpe Hall. It pre-dates the 1887 OS map and was possibly built in the mid 19th century. The building consists of a range parallel to the road, and its main frontage has a gabled end facing east over the park and drive with projections either side. It sits directly on the boundary of the land required for construction.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.26 The significance of the asset lies in the evidential, historic and aesthetic value of their fabric, and its group value with Stoney Thorpe Hall. Its significance is also derived from its setting along the main road at the head of the formal drive, although at present this is heavily screened to the west by tall evergreens. The wider setting towards the south-west is therefore more subsidiary and comprises a roadside hedge with agricultural fields beyond.

Wood Farm and Wood Farm Cottage

- 4.4.27 The asset consists of the southern range of the farm house, three ranges of agricultural buildings around the farmyard, and Wood Farm Cottage approximately 100m to the west, which all appear to pre-date the 1887 OS map. The main facades of the older part of the farmhouse and Wood Farm Cottage both face south-west, while the ranges of farm buildings face onto a yard which is open to the south-east.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.4.28 The significance of the asset lies in the evidential, historic and aesthetic value of their fabric. The buildings largely isolated position amongst arable farmland with Long Itchington/ Ufton Wood to the east and south-east also contribute to its significance.

4.5 Key designated assets within 2km of the centreline

The Church of St Michael, Ufton (LBS079)

- 4.5.1 The church is Grade II* listed. It is an early 13th century church with 14th century and 16th century additions and alterations. It was restored in 1860 and 1881. It has a chancel, aisled nave and a west tower of 3 stages (top stage added in 15th century). The church is built of coursed lias and some limestone, with sandstone dressings, and situated on the top of an escarpment dipping steeply to the north-west.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.5.2 The significance of the asset lies in the evidential, historic and aesthetic value of its fabric, along with its communal value as the parish church, and its setting within the historic churchyard.
- 4.5.3 The most important views of the church are from the main road to the south-west and north-west, and from the wider landscape to the north. This wider setting makes a secondary contribution to the assets overall significance.

Priors Hardwick Conservation Area (LBS014)

- 4.5.4 This conservation area includes the historic centre of Priors Hardwick village. St Mary's Church and a series of closely spaced cottages, barns and houses occupy the northern half. South of this is a large triangular undulating open space (the site of an abandoned medieval village), with more dispersed development to the south and south-west. The buildings are generally of ironstone and in the local vernacular.

The contribution setting makes to the significance of the asset

- 4.5.5 The significance of the conservation area primarily consists of the aesthetic and historical value derived from the architecture of the historic buildings and the character of the spaces between them. The elevated position of the village along a ridge of high ground within open countryside makes an important contribution to its setting.

5 Historic map regression

- 5.1.1 The analysis of the cartographic evidence for the Study Area has been integrated within the archaeological and historical baseline narrative (Sections 4.6-4.8 above).

6 Historic landscape

6.1 Historic landscape characterisation

- 6.1.1 The Warwickshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) provides a historic perspective of the landscape, adding to the general landscape characterisation provided by the Natural England derived Landscape Character Area (LCA). HLC thus provides a much more detailed description of the landscape than the LCA provides, and relates more directly to the time-depth evident in the landscape. HLC is generally divided into two parts: broad types and HLC types. The broad types reflect current usage patterns in a general way, and the HLC types provide more detail in terms of not only morphological description, but of past use. The Study Area extends primarily through rural landscapes in Warwickshire, where the predominate HLC broad type is fieldscapes, i.e. land used primarily for agriculture. Rather than provide a broad-brush description of the entire historic landscape of the complex and highly legible historic landscape that forms the Ladbroke to Southam CFA, the HLC is broken down into the parishes that constitute the greater CFA.
- 6.1.2 The Ladbroke & Southam Study Area falls within the Dunsmore and Feldon LCA. Key characteristics of the area include large, open fields with straight hedges and many hedgerow trees, long views and associations with former heaths and commons. The Feldon area includes characteristic areas of pasture, often with ridge-and-furrow still evident in the landscape. The county boundary at the far south of the Study Area has changed, being altered to incorporate Stoneton Parish into Warwickshire from Northamptonshire in 1896. Parish boundaries, however, appear to be ancient, with several being traceable from Anglo Saxon charters to their present positions⁴⁵. Shrunk and deserted settlements are key characteristics in the Study Area, accompanied by relict landscapes of open field agriculture, in the form of areas of extant ridge-and-furrow. The extensive survival of ridge-and-furrow along with the incorporation of agricultural land within the parkland of Ufton Wood has also been confirmed by LiDAR survey (Appendix CH-004-016).
- 6.1.3 The HLC of Wormleighton and Stoneton parishes is dominated by planned enclosures and very large post-war fields. In some areas, large, irregularly-shaped fields indicate piecemeal enclosures that were subsequently enlarged by removing interior hedges. Both of these historic landscape types incorporate relict landscapes of deserted medieval villages, ridge-and-furrow earthworks and other evidence of village shrinkage and desertion. The deserted village of Wormleighton (LBS013, to the north and west of the current Wormleighton village) has a particularly well-documented history of shrinkage, desertion and enclosure. It was in 1498 that William Cope, cofferer to the household of Henry VII, evicted the residents of Wormleighton to enclose 240 acres with hedges and ditches, for the purpose of establishing pasture on his land. Further hedges and ditches were created after 1509, when John Spencer bought the estate and turned Wormleighton into the centre of their livestock farming operations. The estate is still held by the Spencer family. Other farms in the same parish were also known to have been depopulated in the same manner at this time.

⁴⁵ Hooke 1999.

The change of use from arable to pasture preserved the underlying landscape at Wormleighton. Despite numerous hedges being removed and fields enlarged, the continuing use of the land as pasture means the original earthworks are well-preserved within the active fields.

- 6.1.4 To the east of Wormleighton is the deserted medieval village of Stoneton (LBS007). A Georgian house now stands on the site of the medieval Stoneton manor house, within a moated site, north of the earthworks that represent the former village. Although currently within the bounds of Warwickshire, it was originally in Northamptonshire. The parish boundary between Stoneton and Wormleighton parishes is marked by hedges and may represent the original boundary not only between the parishes, but also between the two counties. The field patterns surrounding Stoneton deserted medieval village can be traced on estate maps to illustrate the history of the landscape: the Newfield pool is shown as New Pool in Spencer's 1634 map of the estate, within a field that in 1777 bore the name "Wood Field". This implies that the field closest to the manor and village may have once been wooded. Another field adjacent to the village, and north of Berryhill plantation, is called "Grove Field" on the 1634 map. Fishponds are marked here on the 1634 map, and are recorded as archaeological sites (HER records number MWA735, part of LBS007). These ponds originally flowed into the moat and it may be that New Pool was built as a replacement for the older fishponds. Small woodlands called spinneys attest to the areas use in fox hunting. A number of these features are found near Wormleighton and Stoneton, including: Fox Covert and Lodge Spinney near Berryhill Plantation; another Fox Covert east of Hill Farm, and Corn Ground Spinney, Windmill Spinney, Freckleton Spinney and Long Spinney near the deserted medieval village of Wormleighton. The small but regular shape of these woodlands, combined with their distinctive names, suggest they were created out of the landscape, rather than being completely natural features.
- 6.1.5 The boundary of the Spencer estate, as mapped from 1634 onwards, is an interesting one. The northern boundary of the estate follows the parish boundaries of both Wormleighton and Stoneton parishes. Where it coincides with the Wormleighton parish boundary, it also follows along a trackway of some antiquity. First edition OS maps show the trackway as a hedged bridle path. The HER identifies this track as being in existence from at least the Anglo-Saxon times, where it was mentioned in a charter of AD969. At the time, the road was called a Sealt Straet, used for the transportation of salt across the country. It was likely used by the Romans in their extensive salt trade, if not earlier. The Sealt Straet intersects and meets the boundaries of four parishes (Wormleighton, Stoneton, Priors Hardwick and Radbourn) at a ford over a currently-unnamed tributary of the River Itchen (called Wylman Broce in the charter). In 969 AD, the ford was called Wilmanford; today it is known as Wilma's ford. A field in Lower Radbourne is named 'Wilford's Meadow' in the Radbourne Tithe Award of 1849 and the 1634 Spencer estate map of Wormleighton shows the 'meadow next to the Wilford gate' next to the ford.
- 6.1.6 The historic landscape of the parishes of Radbourn, Hodnell and Wills Pastures mirrors that of the Wormleighton and Stoneton parishes. A group of deserted medieval villages are located in the vicinity of Hodnell Manor, Watergall, Chapel Ascote and Wills Pastures. They are known as the Hodnell Group of deserted medieval villages,

and are known to have been depopulated by 1600, but the details are not as clear as in the case of Wormleighton. Existing field patterns include large, rectilinear field's characteristic of Planned Enclosures as well as very large, post-war fields. Like the parishes to the south, though, these large, modern fields are superimposed over relict medieval landscapes of scattered villages and open-field farming.

- 6.1.7 The historic landscape character of Ladbroke parish is markedly different from those to the south. The land to the south and east of Ladbroke village includes extensive tracts of ridge-and-furrow. Unlike the ridge-and-furrow preserved to the south, though, these earthworks are within areas of piecemeal enclosure, where the field boundaries are smaller, more sinuous and frequently aligned with the ridge-and-furrow (for example, LBS100). This reflects a more organic, smaller-scale level of enclosure, often by agreement between local parties, rather than the wholesale eviction and enclosure as was seen at Wormleighton. Some fields may have been re-organised or suffered some hedgerow loss as internal hedges were removed. However, those that do remain retain the alignment from their original enclosure. Along with well-preserved ridge-and-furrow in Ladbroke, the village itself is shrunken, with earthworks related to earlier settlement of the site recorded in the HER. Just to the north-east of Ladbroke geophysical survey work has also identified the presence of archaeological features, including a complex of small rectilinear enclosures (LBS102, see Appendix CH-004-016). These features are undated and may have had an agricultural or domestic function, and although undated their form may suggest a late prehistoric date.
- 6.1.8 Ladbroke Hall, the 18th century manor house of Ladbroke, is a Grade II listed building (LBS048). Though not a part of the listing, the Hall includes landscaped gardens including a canal, lake, and kitchen garden. However, it is likely that the designed landscape here relates to a similar set of circumstances that occurred further north in Stoneleigh, with the village shrinking during the late Middle Ages, with the open fields, clearly seen in the remains of ridge-and-furrow, being turned over to pasture. In the early 18th century, prosperity brought a remodelling of the manor house with the addition of fashionable pleasure grounds as well extensions and improvements to the buildings. As with Wormleighton and Stoneton parishes, foxhunting features can be seen in patches of woodland with descriptive names, including: Ladbroke Fox Covert, Pool Spinney, Dovehouse Spinney, Milking Hill Spinney and Windmill Hill Spinney. The curiously-named Nuns Bushes, however, likely predates these spinneys. Bounded on one side by the parish boundary, with a sinuous south-eastern boundary and location on the side of Weddington Hill, the name of this small patch of woodland likely refers to a time when it may have belonged to a nearby monastic house. The Priory of Nuneaton drew rents from a windmill in Chapel Ascote in 1291; drawing from the place-name evidence, it is likely to have been on Weddington Hill.
- 6.1.9 The earliest mention of Southam parish comes from Anglo-Saxon charter evidence, which described the parish boundaries in AD998. The manor of Southam was either granted or confirmed to the Priory of Coventry in 1043, and remained there until the Dissolution of the Monasteries. The boundaries described in the charter of 998 (and again by Coventry Priory in 1410) can still be traced through their description to the current parish boundaries. The monastic history of the parish is reflected in place names such as Glebe Farm and The Grange. Other religious features include a holy

well to the west of Southam village, near the River Sowe. Woodland is mentioned as being within or nearby the manor at the time of Domesday, though little remains of it now, with the exception of some place-names such as the Holt farms.

- 6.1.10 The landscape of the Study Area within Southam parish consists mostly of large, rectilinear fields, with some irregular interior boundaries. Most of the parish's fields were shown as open as late as 1695, and not enclosed until 1760. However, fields south of these are identified by the HLC as re-organised piecemeal enclosure, and evidence of ridge-and-furrow still exists in the north of the parish, near Stoney Thorpe Hall. It is likely that the fields in this parish once existed as open fields, but have been enclosed, organised and re-organised over time to develop the pattern currently visible. Some re-organisation would have taken place during the development and maintenance of the three turnpike roads that met in Southam. Turnpike roads ran through Southam on the road from Warwick to Northampton, as well as from Ryton Bridge to Banbury and from Kineton to Southam. The road from Ryton Bridge to Banbury was turnpiked in 1754; that from Warwick to Northampton via Southam in 1765 and that from Kineton to Southam (one of the latest roads to be turnpiked) in 1852. The importance of Southam as a transportation hub is reflected also in the numerous coaching inns present in the town, many of which are still standing and are now listed buildings.
- 6.1.11 Just north of the parish boundary with Southam, in Long Itchington parish, lies Stoney Thorpe Hall (LBS067). Originally part of the Long Itchington Manor, it became a separate manor sometime between 1202 and 1308. Ridge-and-furrow, as well as other earthworks, appears on aerial photographs in the vicinity of the current Stoney Thorpe Hall, and a shrunken or deserted medieval village is recorded in the HER on the grounds adjacent to the existing Hall. The area around the hall, particularly to the south, has been heavily landscaped, particularly around the nearby Dallas Burston Polo Grounds, which form the western edge of the Stoney Thorpe Hall property. The landscape to the south and west of the Hall includes a field with numerous trees superimposed on ridge-and-furrow, indicating a purposeful planting after the field was taken from cultivation. Though these trees do not form any obvious alignment, an avenue of trees has been planted leading from the Hall and to the south and west, leading from the Leamington Road (now the A425), up to the River Itchen, where lies the parish boundary with Southam. A bridge crosses the Itchen, where the avenue of trees ends, but a path continues to the front of Stoney Thorpe Hall. This avenue of trees is part of the landscape from at least 1887, when they appear as a feature in the 1st edition OS map. The crossing of a parish boundary by this landscape feature may help to identify the Stoney Thorpe estate boundaries. The presence of natural or semi-natural woodland in relatively close proximity to Stoney Thorpe Hall may have limited the need for the creation of hunting landscapes. However, fox coverts are identified within nearby woodlands and the name Thorpe Rough attests to management, if not creation, for the purpose of foxhunting.
- 6.1.12 The boundary of Long Itchington and Ufton parishes is an old one, and well documented. The boundary is mentioned in an Anglo-Saxon charter of 1001 AD, a portion of which can be traced to a boundary bank separating Ufton Wood from Long Itchington Wood. Outside of the Ufton and Long Itchington woods, the parish boundary is also clearly marked on Hewitt's 1695 map of the Ufton Estate.

- 6.1.13 The Domesday survey records that wood-pasture within the [Long] Itchington manor was one furlong long by two furlongs wide. This wooded character is still a key characteristic of Long Itchington today compared to neighbouring parishes. However, the landscape adjoining Long Itchington Wood and Print Wood also retain good evidence of woodland assarting (LBS101). The land to the west of Long Itchington Wood, including Bascote Heath and up to Thorpe Rough is characterised by small assarts, rectilinear “squatter” enclosures and small irregular and rectilinear fields. The Warwickshire Historic Landscape Characterisation notes the “squatter” style enclosures are likely to have occurred as a result of encroachment onto common land. The area between Long Itchington Wood and Thorpe rough was marked as common on Greenwood’s 1822 map. It may be that the area was previously one of wood-pasture, gradually over-grazed, encroached upon and brought under cultivation. Evidence of medieval open fields, in the form of ridge-and-furrow, can also be seen in fields linking Long Itchington Wood with Thorpe Rough. Assarted woodland can also be identified south of Print Wood (LBS101). Combined with place-name evidence (Woodmeadow, Ashgrove, Wood and Burley farms all being nearby), it is likely that this area was wood or wood-pasture in the past.
- 6.1.14 The Ufton estate was given to Coventry Priory before the Norman Conquest, where it remained until the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Like Long Itchington, woodland is a characteristic of this parish, with a 10-acre wood within the demense land of the Ufton estate in 1279. Coupled with Offchurch (see below), Ufton formed the Barony of the Prior of Coventry in 1316. The landscape around Ufton village includes some small assarting between Ufton Wood and Ufton Fields nature reserve; they may have once formed a larger area of wood or wood-pasture. The village of Ufton appears to have shrunken, and earthworks representing its former, larger, area are included in the HER as part of a possibly deserted medieval village. The Ufton estate passed through several hands after the dissolution of the monasteries, but does not appear to have had any major improvements to the landscape. In 1679, it was given to Oxford University for the support of Scottish students studying there. In 1693, this was transferred to Balliol College, Oxford, where it has since remained. By the 1860s, all save 90 acres of Ufton parish belonged to Balliol College⁴⁶. The current landscape of Ufton parish within the Study Area consists of large and very large fields, some with irregular boundaries, but most of rectilinear morphologies. Thus, the landscape here does not demonstrate as great a time depth as those in the parishes to the south.
- 6.1.15 Nonetheless, there are some interesting features within the landscape near Ufton. One of note is a path or trackway that crosses the parish in a roughly north-south direction. The track is marked as such on the OS maps, and is called Ridgeway Lane north of Welsh Road. The track continues north to Snowford Lodge farm, through Hunningham, to Wappenbury. An estate map of 1684 identifies the trackway as the Banbury to Coventry Road. Though it is not recorded in the HER, H.R. Sweeting argued in 1938 that this was in fact a pre-Roman road from Bourton-on-the-Water to Wappenbury⁴⁷. The Warwickshire HER identifies an area to the west of the trackway, opposite Print Woods, where barrows had been recorded in the text of an Anglo-Saxon charter, and Anglo-Saxon burials found during the 19th century. Prehistoric ring

⁴⁶ Salzman 1951.

⁴⁷ Sweeting, H.R. (1938), A Pre-Roman Road in Warwickshire. *Geography* 23(4), 258-261.

ditches have been identified through crop marks seen on aerial photographs along the road near Findle farm. There is also, of course, the Iron Age hillfort at Wappenbury along the route. Though the extent of the pathway, as well as its date of origin, remains unclear, it most clearly does extend from at least Harbury in the south to Wappenbury in the north. The road roughly parallels the Fosse Way from the south until Snowford, where it veers west to follow the ridge, dropping downhill into Hunningham to intersect with the Fosse Way.

- 6.1.16 The Welsh Road, identified as drover's road from Wales to London via a number of Midlands market towns, can be found within the whole of the CFA. In some cases, it is the route of the road called Welsh Road; in others, it exists as an archaeological feature. With its continued use as a highway, the Welsh drover's road has become a piece of history forever integrated into the modern landscape

6.2 Historic parks and gardens

- 6.2.1 There are no Grade I, II* or II registered parks within 2km of the area of land take. There is one undesignated park and garden of local historical significance – Stoneythorpe Park (LBS068). Stoneythorpe Park was created in the 19th century and is marked on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1886 and 1906. It appears to have been extended at a later date and features a kitchen garden, avenue and gatehouse. This park comprises open grassland in the valleys of the Itchen and Stowe, landscaped in the English Picturesque tradition with lone specimen trees, groups and long avenues providing two carriage approaches to the house in the centre. It was certainly present in the 19th century and may partly date to the 17th century or earlier. There is a gatehouse with gates (Grade II listed) to the south-west and a simple modern gate to the south-east, both along Leamington Road. A kitchen garden stands near the house.

6.3 Important hedgerows

- 6.3.1 Seven hedgerows in the Study Area have been identified as likely to be worthy of protection under the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations (LBS010, LBS020, LBS025, LBS039, LBS040, LBS054, LBS083). Three hedgerows along the boundary between Stoneton Parish and Wormleighton Parish are particularly important, given their alignment following the old Warwickshire/ Northamptonshire county boundaries and the presence of the nearby deserted medieval villages of both Stoneton and Wormleighton. Parish boundaries between Wormleighton and Hodnell and Wills Pastures parish also cross the Study Area along a marked pathway. This pathway is present and labelled as being hedged on the 1st edition OS Map. The boundary between Ladbroke and Southam parishes also includes hedgerows near Harp Farm. The hedged parish boundary between Long Itchington and Ufton parishes has been documented as an archaeological site within the Long Itchington Wood, with references to the boundary in that location made in Anglo-Saxon charters.

7 Archaeological character

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 To determine the archaeological potential for the Study Area, it was sub-divided into Archaeological Character Areas (ACA). These ACAs are derived from a consideration of the current topography, geology and current land use of the area. From these factors the potential for recovery of archaeological remains are considered.
- 7.1.2 From these broad character areas, the landscape was further subdivided into archaeological sub-zones (ASZ), which have allowed for a more in-depth understanding of the archaeological potential of the CFA. The Study Area for the CFA has been sub-divided into 29 ASZ. Although initially defined and characterised by current land use, a number of additional factors have determined the potential of these sub-zones to contain archaeological remains of significance. These factors include topography, geology, historic character and distribution of known archaeological finds, sites and assets.

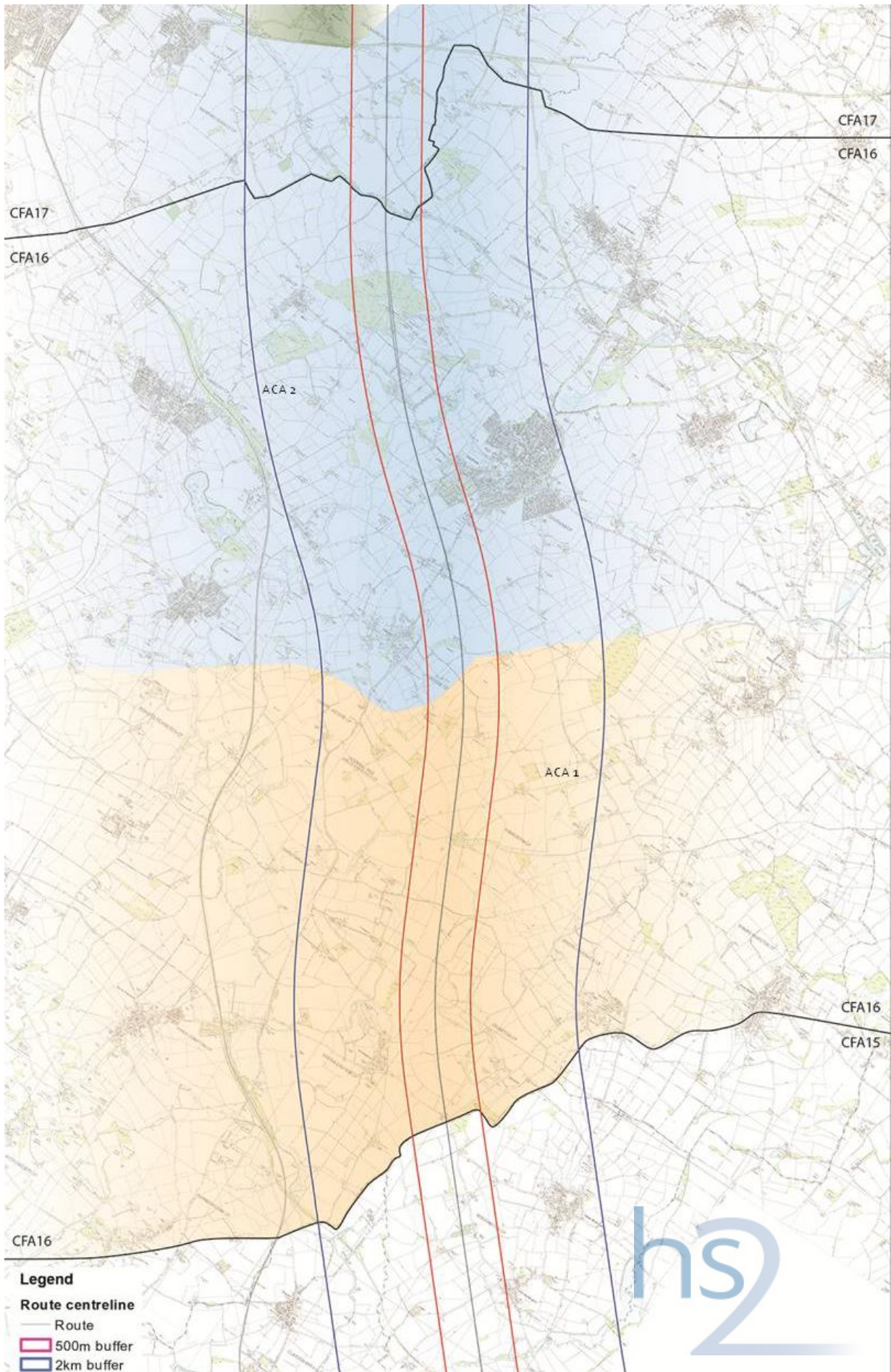
7.2 Character areas

- 7.2.1 The Study Area has been divided into two Archaeological Character Areas for the purpose of assessing archaeological potential: 1. the South Warwickshire uplands, and 2. The Warwickshire Feldon.
- 7.2.2 The Archaeological Character Areas (ACAs) described below extend from south to north within the Study Area.

ACA 1: The South Warwickshire uplands

- 7.2.3 Character Area 1 comprises the northern edge of the Natural England Landscape Character Area for the Northamptonshire Uplands, here called the South Warwickshire Uplands. This area stretches from Fox Covert in the south to the northern slopes of Windmill Hill in Ladbrooke. This also equates to the southernmost zone identified above in respect of geology and soils (sections 4.2 and 4.3). This area comprises low clay hills drained by streams feeding the upper Itchen. The underlying Charmouth mudstones have resulted in rich loamy clay soils that support extensive modern arable cultivation. There is very little known archaeology of pre medieval date from the Study Area and regionally Palaeolithic and early prehistoric archaeology is rare suggesting the heavy soils were a disincentive to settlement. Evidence for more intensive land use and settlement begins in the Iron Age through in to the Roman period. There is little evidence for early Anglo Saxon settlement, and although evidence for middle and late Saxon occupation is rare the distinctive pattern of nucleated villages and open fields is probably established by the tenth/eleventh century. Forced enclosure of the open fields takes place from the fourteenth century, with large areas of former open field turned over to pasture with a large number of settlements becoming deserted or shrunken. The pattern of modern fields still shows this process with areas of small irregular early enclosed fields surviving within areas of more geometric later enclosure and larger and more recent amalgamated fields.

Figure 1: Archaeological Character Areas



ACA2: Warwickshire Feldon

- 7.2.4 Character Area 2 comprises the southern edge of the Natural England Landscape Character Area for Feldon and Dunsmore, here called Feldon. This stretches from agricultural fields to the south of Southam north beyond the Grand Union Canal to print Wood in Long Itchington. This equates with the central and northern zones identified above in respect of geology and soils. Most of this zone is dominated by the band of Rugby limestone and its lime rich, relatively free draining soils and while this supports extensive arable there is an increased amount of pasture and woodland. On the northern edge beyond Ufton/Long Itchington Wood Mercian mudstones appear and soils become heavier but rich and loamy. The River Itchen runs south-west to north-east through this area with tributary streams draining low rolling farmland. To the north Ufton/Long Itchington Wood sits atop a ridge line overlooking a stream valley draining west into the Leam. Although the geology and soils differ from the South Warwickshire Uplands the landscape history and archaeology is similar with little known archaeology before the medieval period from the Study Area. However there is more evidence form adjacent areas with known sites for the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman period coming from the valley of the Itchen and in particular from the Lower Itchen north of Lower Itchington. Enclosure of the open fields appears generally to have happened a little later, in the 16th and 17th centuries, often by agreement although deserted settlements are still common and many modern settlements also show signs of shrinkage.

7.3 Archaeological sub-zones

- 7.3.1 The ACAs have been further sub divided into twenty nine sub-zones.
- 7.3.2 The archaeological sub-zones are presented in the table below from south to north. An indication of archaeological potential for each sub-zone is provided.
- 7.3.3 The 29 sub-zones have been identified on the basis of:
- topography;
 - geology and soils;
 - modern land use;
 - historic character (as assigned by the Warwickshire HLC project); and
 - known archaeology.
- 7.3.4 For each sub-zone, summary comments have been made on the potential for the survival of unknown archaeological remains.

- 7.3.5 In general the medieval and post medieval landscapes are well understood and hold little potential for unknown archaeology. Equally the Palaeolithic is well understood in as much as there is no potential in the Study Area, with only low for the early prehistoric (except for areas close to streams where the potential may be higher). Across the sub-zones, areas of modern fieldscape, particularly pasture, but also arable have been identified as having moderate potential for unknown remains of late prehistoric, Roman and early medieval date.
- 7.3.6 Most of the area has been ploughed since the Second World War, including many of those fields currently under pasture. This will have resulted in the partial destruction of buried archaeological remains. The extent of that destruction is uncertain but is likely to result in the survival of only the deeper archaeological features. Some sites will have been wholly destroyed and may only survive as scatters of artefacts in the ploughsoil.
- 7.3.7 There may be better survival within the floodplains of the streams that feed into the Itchen and within the Itchen itself, where alluvial deposits may protect archaeological remains. In addition in these areas remains may be waterlogged leading to the preservations of organic and environmental remains.
- 7.3.8 In a small number of areas archaeological remains will have been removed entirely (e.g. the quarrying in Ufton) and elsewhere impacts may have been severe, as in the landscaping around the polo grounds.
- 7.3.9 Table 1 lists the identified sub zones. Plans showing the sub-zones can be found in Volume 5, CH-03-101 to CH-03-105a.

Table 1 Archaeological sub-zones

No.	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic character (HLC)	Archaeology (from baseline DBA)
1	Wormleighton/ Stoneton: South facing slopes to Cherwell	Gentle slopes running south off Avon/ Cherwell watershed	Charmouth Mudstones (Lias Clays). Slow permeable, seasonally wet, and slightly acid but base rich loamy and clayey soils. Moderate fertility.	Agriculture, mainly arable.	Fieldscape, planned enclosure.	Known cropmark site at Lower Boddington, just south of the CFA. There is potential for unknown/buried late prehistoric/ Roman and early medieval archaeology. The medieval and post medieval landscape is well preserved and well understood in this sub-zone.
2	Stoneton: higher ground/ ridge at Berryhill	Pronounced ridge up to 180m, with steep slopes down to Stoneton	Charmouth Mudstones (Lias Clays). Slow permeable, seasonally wet, and slightly acid but base rich loamy and clayey soils. Moderate fertility.	Agriculture, mainly pasture.	Fieldscape, planned enclosure	Steep slopes within study area suggest low potential for archaeology other than agricultural features. The medieval and post-medieval landscape at Stoneton (LBS002) is well understood. Possibly colluvium at base of slopes may mask buried archaeology.
3	Wormleighton/Stoneton: North facing slopes down to Oxford Canal	Slightly elevated slopes from 140m at Wormleighton to 115 at Oxford Canal.	Charmouth Mudstones (Lias Clays). Slow permeable, seasonally wet, and slightly acid but base rich loamy and clayey soils. Moderate fertility.	Agriculture, mainly arable.	Fieldscape, mainly larger post-war fields, although earlier planned enclosure around Wormleighton, with some irregular enclosure towards Stoneton/ Priors Hardwick.	Known cropmark sites at Stoneton (LBS003) and Wormleighton (LBS011). Potential for unknown/buried late prehistoric/ Roman and Early medieval, medieval and post medieval landscapes are well preserved and well known. This subzone includes the Oxford Canal.
4	Wormleighton/Radbourn: North facing valley from Oxford canal to Upper Itchen.	Gentle rolling land from 115m at canal to 100m at Radbourne	Charmouth Mudstones (Lias Clays). Slow permeable, seasonally wet, and slightly acid but base rich loamy and clayey soils. Moderate fertility.	Agriculture, mainly arable.	Fieldscape, larger post-war fields.	No known archaeology earlier than well-known remnants of ploughed out medieval field systems and post medieval agriculture/ farmsteads (Church Farm, LBS012). There is potential for unknown buried late prehistoric/Roman/early medieval archaeology. Includes possible early Salt Way (LBS024).

No.	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic character (HLC)	Archaeology (from baseline DBA)
5	Upper Itchen floodplain/channel	Narrow flood plain of small stream, Streams flowing from base of Priors Hardwick ridge and Stoneton.	Charmouth Mudstones (Lias Clays) with recent alluvium. Slow permeable, seasonally wet, and slightly acid but base rich loamy and clayey soils. Moderate fertility.	Agriculture, mixed arable and pasture, with fish-ponds at Radbourne.	Fieldscape with some floodplain and meadow.	Medieval and post medieval settlements exist to both sides at Radbourne, both medieval and post-med deserted settlements with good evidence for field systems (LBS033, LBS035). There is potential for stream side activities of all periods from late Early prehistoric onwards. There is also potential for remains buried under alluvium and good environmental preservation.
6	Radbourne: South facing slopes down to Upper Itchen	Gentle rolling land from 115m to 100m	Charmouth Mudstones (Lias Clays). Slow permeable, seasonally wet, and slightly acid but base rich loamy and clayey soils. Moderate fertility.	Agriculture, mainly arable.	Fieldscape, planned enclosure.	Site of Radbourne DMV (LBS035), with possibility of earlier RB activity. Potential for unknown buried late prehistoric/Roman/Early med. Medieval landscape well understood.
7	Radbourne/ Ladbroke: North facing slopes down to stream	Gentle rolling land from 115m to 100m	Charmouth Mudstones (Lias Clays)	Agriculture, mainly arable, with some pasture in N around Ladbroke Grove Farm and towards Ladbroke.	Fieldscape, planned enclosure.	No known archaeology earlier than the well-known remnants of ploughed out medieval field systems and post medieval agriculture /farmsteads (ridge-and-furrow preserved in area of Ladbroke Grove Farm (LiDAR WA1.25 and closer to Ladbroke). There is potential for unknown buried late prehistoric/Roman/ early medieval archaeology.
8	Ladbroke: stream valley	Narrow floodplain of small stream	Charmouth Mudstones (Lias Clays) with recent alluvium. Slow permeable, seasonally wet, and slightly acid but base rich loamy and clayey soils. Moderate fertility.	Agriculture, mainly arable.	Fieldscape with some floodplain and meadow.	No known archaeology. Potential for stream side activities of all periods from Early prehistoric onwards. Potential for remains buried under alluvium and good environmental preservation.

No.	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic character (HLC)	Archaeology (from baseline DBA)
9	Ladbroke: historic and modern settlement	Village located to both sides of small stream valley at a point where it breaches low hills.	Charmouth Mudstones (Lias Clays). Slow permeable, seasonally wet, and slightly acid but base rich loamy and clayey soils. Moderate fertility.	Settlement	Historic settlement with elements of designed landscape around Ladbroke Hall and Ladbroke House.	Eastern edge of known medieval settlement with possible early medieval antecedents (LBS048). Settlement has expanded/contracted over time with evidence of earthworks. There is the potential for unknown buried settlement and land use from late prehistoric/Roman/early medieval archaeology (see also 8).
10	Ladbroke: south facing slopes down to stream	Gentle slopes down to stream.	Charmouth Mudstones (Lias Clays). Slow permeable, seasonally wet, and slightly acid but base rich loamy and clayey soils. Moderate fertility.	Agriculture, mainly arable.	Fieldscape, mix of irregular enclosure and larger post war fields. Ridge-and-furrow survives around Ladbroke.	No known archaeology earlier than well-known remnants of ploughed out medieval field systems and post medieval agriculture/farmsteads (good survival of ridge-and-furrow in western part near Ladbroke). There is potential for unknown buried late Prehistoric/Roman/early medieval archaeology.
11	Ladbroke: Windmill Hill/ Lady Hill/ Ladbroke Hill	Part of a low chain running north-east to south-west, moderately steep slopes reach 138m	Charmouth Mudstones (Lias Clays) with limestone outcropping. Slow permeable, seasonally wet (better drained on slopes), and slightly acid but base rich loamy and clayey soils. Moderate fertility.	Agriculture, mainly arable, with woodland on top of Windmill Hill.	Fieldscape, irregular enclosure	No known archaeology earlier than well-known remnants of ploughed out medieval field systems and post medieval agriculture/farmsteads, although suspected site of Windmill at top of hill. Hilltop position may have been attractive for settlement/ defence in the past. There is potential for unknown buried late prehistoric/Roman/early medieval archaeology.

No.	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic character (HLC)	Archaeology (from baseline DBA)
12	Ladbroke/ Southam: farmland to the south of Southam and east of A423	Level ground around 85m	Charmouth Mudstones (Lias Clays) to the south (Slow permeable, seasonally wet, and slightly acid but base rich loamy and clayey soils. Moderate fertility) with Rugby Limestone to north (Lime rich loamy and clayey soils, freer draining with higher fertility).	Agriculture, mainly arable, some pasture to north-east of Ladbroke and south of Harp Farm.	Fieldscape, mix of irregular enclosure in Ladbroke with surviving ridge-and-furrow, and larger post-war fields in Southam. Some settlement at Hope Farm/ Starbold Farm on A423	No known archaeology earlier than well-known remnants of ploughed out medieval field systems and post medieval agriculture/ farmsteads (ridge-and-furrow preserved in pasture to the south of Harp Farm seen on LiDAR, WA1.33 and earthwork boundaries WA1.34) but including evidence for brick kilns at Harp Farm (LBS055) Potential for unknown buried late prehistoric/Roman/early medieval archaeology.
13	Ladbroke/ Southam: south facing slopes to the River Itchen and tributaries between A423 and B4451.	Gentle slopes between 80 and 85m dissected by small tributaries of the Itchen	Charmouth Mudstones (Lias Clays) to the south (soils; Slow permeable, seasonally wet, and slightly acid but base rich loamy and clayey soils. Moderate fertility), with Rugby Limestone to north (Lime rich loamy and clayey soils, freer draining with higher fertility).	Agriculture, mainly arable.	Fieldscape, planned enclosure.	No known archaeology earlier than well-known remnants of ploughed out medieval field systems and post medieval agriculture/ farmsteads. Potential for unknown buried late prehistoric/Roman/early medieval archaeology. There have been significant concentrations of finds and sites to north in Lower Itchen.
14	Southam: west facing slopes to the River Itchen on the west side of the B4451.	Gentle slopes between 80 and 95m.	Rugby Limestone. Lime rich loamy and clayey soils, freer draining with higher fertility	Agriculture, mainly arable.	Fieldscape, planned enclosure	No known archaeology earlier than the well-known remnants of ploughed out medieval field systems and post medieval agriculture/ farmsteads/ quarrying. Potential for unknown buried late prehistoric/Roman/early medieval archaeology.

No.	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic character (HLC)	Archaeology (from baseline DBA)
15	Southam; historic and modern settlement	The historic settlement largely sits on rising ground up 100m, on the N side of R Stowe, but with a small outlier long the Warwick Rd to the S.	Rugby Limestone. Lime rich loamy and clayey soils, freer draining with higher fertility	Settlement	Historic settlement	This subzone includes a known medieval settlement with possible early medieval antecedents (LBS063). The settlement has a medieval/ post medieval core to the north, outside of the Study Area. Recent development comprises most of the southern part and will have substantially impacted any archaeological remains. Potential remains for unknown buried settlement and land use of late prehistoric/roman/early medieval into medieval/ post medieval date (see also 16).
16	Southam: Fields overlooking the River Stowe	Ground slopes gently to the north	Rugby Limestone. Lime rich loamy and clayey soils, freer draining with higher fertility	Arable fields	Fieldscape with some meadow on the northern edge.	No known archaeology earlier than the well-known remnants of ploughed out medieval field systems and post medieval agriculture/ farmsteads/ quarrying. Potential for unknown buried late prehistoric/Roman/early medieval archaeology.
17	Southam: River Stowe floodplain and channel	Narrow floodplain running east-west	Rugby Limestone with recent alluvium. Soils lime rich loamy and clayey, freer draining with higher fertility.	Agriculture, mix of arable and pasture, built up in Southam, with leisure use.	Fieldscape with Settlement towards Southam. Some floodplain and meadow.	There is potential for stream side activities of all periods from early prehistoric onwards. Additional potential exists for remains buried under alluvium and good environmental preservation.
18	Southam/ Long Itchington: River Itchen	Sinuuous, narrow floodplain, running north-south.	Cut through a mix of Lias shales and limestones with recent alluvium. Lime rich loamy and clayey soils, freer draining with higher fertility	Agriculture, mix of arable and pasture.	Fieldscape with floodplain and meadow.	There is potential for stream side activities of all periods from late Upper Palaeolithic onwards. Additional potential exists for remains buried under alluvium and good environmental preservation.

No.	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic character (HLC)	Archaeology (from baseline DBA)
19	Ufton/ Long Itchington: south facing slopes down to the River Itchen	Ground rises gently to west from 80m at Itchen to 110m near Ufton Wood.	Langport Member Limestone except where Penarth Group exposed by streams. Lime rich loamy and clayey soils, freer draining with higher fertility	Agriculture, currently mainly pasture although much of the area has been ploughed with some historic pasture in the southern part. Includes commercial site of Lower Farm. Bisected by small stream at Lower Farm.	Fieldscape, mix of arable and pasture	No known archaeology earlier than the well-known remnants of ploughed out medieval field systems and post medieval agriculture/ farmsteads (ridge-and-furrow preserved in the south, close to the River Itchen). Potential for unknown buried late prehistoric/ Roman/ early medieval archaeology. Significant concentrations of finds and sites have been recorded to the north in the lower Itchen valley.
20	Ufton; quarry/ landfill	n/a –original ground surface removed and re-instated	Langport Member Limestone	Industrial	Industrial/ Extractive	Large scale quarrying has removed all archaeological remains.
21	Stoney Thorpe Hall	Gently sloping fields either side of River Itchen.	Langport Member Limestone	Designed landscape	Pasture/ parkland	Location of post medieval Stoney Thorpe Hall with possibly surviving earthworks of a deserted medieval village (DMV) to the south on the west bank of the River Itchen (LBS06g). Land to the east of the R. Itchen is heavily quarried. Ridge-and-furrow survives to both sides of the river. There is potential for unknown buried late prehistoric/Roman/ early medieval archaeology, with the potential for good survival under historic pasture.
22	Long Itchington: polo grounds	Natural slope up to the west away from the Itchen but site has been levelled and landscaped	Langport member Limestone.	Leisure	Leisure and recreation, previously planned enclosure.	Extensive landscaping and levelling may have significantly impacted on any previously surviving archaeological remains. The extent of disturbance is uncertain so some potential survives for unknown buried remains of late prehistoric date onwards (e.g. 'Mill' names in field references).

No.	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic character (HLC)	Archaeology (from baseline DBA)
23	Bascote Heath, Long Itchington: south facing slopes down to the River Itchen	Ground rises gently to west from 80m at Itchen to 110m in Ufton Wood.	Langport Member Limestone except where Penarth Group exposed by streams. Lime rich loamy and clayey soils, freer draining with higher fertility	Agriculture, mainly pasture and woodland (although many fields have been ploughed in the past).	Elements of Bascote Heath dispersed settlement, farmsteads and small closes in amongst fieldscape of recent and historic pasture with relatively extensive woodland.	No known archaeology earlier than the well-known remnants of ploughed out medieval field systems and post medieval agriculture/ farmsteads (ridge-and-furrow survives in places (see LiDAR survey WA1.45). There is potential for unknown buried late prehistoric/ Roman/early medieval archaeology. Significant concentrations of finds and sites have been recorded to the north in the lower Itchen valley.
24	Ufton/ Long Itchington: woodland	Woodland sits on north-east to south-west ridge up to 110m	Interbedded siltstones, mudstones and Limestones. Slightly acid, loamy and clayey soils with slightly impeded drainage. Moderate to high fertility	Woodland	Ancient Woodland	The woodland preserves medieval/ post medieval banks/ boundaries (LBS082) with the potential for other woodland associated features (e.g. saw-pits) to also be present. The Ufton/ Long Itchington parish boundary runs directly through, and may include archaeological features such as ditches and banks. There is potential for the preservation of earlier buried remains of late prehistoric to early medieval date. The ridge position would have been attractive to some settlement/ defensive activity.
25	Ufton/ Long Itchington: north facing ridge slopes	Relatively steep slopes from ridge at 110m to edge of floodplain at 75m.	Interbedded siltstones, mudstones and Limestones. Slightly acid, loamy and clayey soils with slightly impeded drainage. Moderate to high fertility	Agriculture, mainly arable.	Fieldscape, mix of irregular and planed enclosure with some larger post war fields.	Two cropmark enclosures are present close to Wood Farm (LBS084) of possible late prehistoric/Roman date. There is potential through this area, including for early medieval archaeology (although this potential may be lower as no more cropmarks show on these relatively well drained slopes. Otherwise, the medieval/ post medieval landscape of the area is well known.

No.	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic character (HLC)	Archaeology (from baseline DBA)
26	Ufton/ Long Itchington: stream valley	S side of wide floodplain of small stream at around 65m, down to Grand Union Canal	Mercian Mudstone overlain by glacio-fluvial head and recent alluvial deposits. Slightly acid, loamy and clayey soils with slightly impeded drainage. Moderate to high fertility	Agriculture, mainly arable.	Fieldscape, mix of irregular and planed enclosure with some larger post war fields	No known archaeology. There is the potential for stream side activities of all periods from late Upper Palaeolithic onwards. Additional potential exists for archaeological remains buried under head/ alluvium and for good environmental preservation.
27	Ufton/ Long Itchington: stream valley	North side of wide floodplain of small stream at around 65m, down to Grand Union Canal	Mercian Mudstone overlain by glacio-fluvial head and recent alluvial deposits. Slightly acid, loamy and clayey soils with slightly impeded drainage. Moderate to high fertility	Agriculture, mainly arable.	Fieldscape, of planned enclosures.	No known archaeology. There is the potential for stream side activities of all periods from late Upper Palaeolithic onwards. Additional potential exists for archaeological remains buried under head/ alluvium and for good environmental preservation.
28	Long Itchington: south facing slopes to stream valley	Relatively steep south facing slopes down to floodplain.	Mercian mudstone. Slightly acid, loamy and clayey soils with slightly impeded drainage. Moderate to high fertility	Agriculture, mainly arable fields.	Fieldscape. Small area of planned enclosure.	No known archaeology. The subzone's western edge is defined by Ridgeway Lane (LBS091), which may represent a pre-Roman road. Print Wood barrows (LBS095) is nearby. There is potential for unknown/buried archaeology of late prehistoric/ Roman/ early medieval to medieval date.
29	Long Itchington: Print Wood	South facing slope overlooking steam valley.	Mercian mudstone. Slightly acid, loamy and clayey soils with slightly impeded drainage. Moderate to high fertility	Woodland,	Ancient woodland.	No known archaeology. There is potential for preserved earthworks of medieval/post medieval date, together with buried remains of earlier periods.

8 Analysis and research potential

8.1 Analysis of understanding

- 8.1.1 The Study Area contains relatively few known archaeological assets and the majority date to the medieval and post medieval periods.
- 8.1.2 For the medieval period there is good evidence of the pattern of settlement, both surviving historic settlement and deserted settlement, and the layout of the landscape/fields between the settlements. Evidence is available from a variety of sources including: documentary sources, historic mapping, aerial photographs and physical survival. The situation is similar for the post medieval period.
- 8.1.3 For all other periods there is a marked lack of evidence. . This is likely to result from a lower density of activity within the Study Area during the Early Prehistoric period and a material culture, particular during the early medieval period, which is difficult to identify.
- 8.1.4 There are no assets of Palaeolithic date in the Study Area. The Study Area also has a low potential to contain unknown archaeology of this period because Palaeolithic remains generally survive in Pleistocene river terrace deposits and the opportunities for the survival of these deposits is very limited within the Study Area.
- 8.1.5 For other early prehistoric periods (the Mesolithic, Neolithic) the Study Area contains no known assets and has low potential for unknown archaeology, although further work to determine, and confirm, why there is a lack of evidence, and whether this reflects a lack of activity in the Study Area, the nature of activity associated with it or conditions affecting preservation would be beneficial. During these periods it is likely that activity would have been focussed on lighter, better drained soils, such as those found to the north within the Avon valley. Activity within the Study Area is therefore likely to have been limited. If activity and settlement was contained within the Study Area it is likely to have been low level and dispersed making it difficult to locate. There is low to moderate potential for remains with chances of survival focusing on potential river deposits associated with the Itchen valley – in particular towards Offchurch where polished stone axes have been found.
- 8.1.6 In the Later Prehistoric period agricultural technology, such as iron tools, allowed the heavier soils of the Study Area to be opened up for agriculture. By the late Iron Age it is probable that large areas of the Study Area were under cultivation with settlement focussed on small farmsteads. A small number of cropmark sites, identified as heritage assets, may indicate the location of some of these farmsteads, for example, a complex of small rectilinear enclosures identified by geophysical survey at Windmill Hill (LBS102). There is moderate potential for further unknown assets to be found. Although some assets have been identified from cropmarks these have been from the southern and northern parts of the Study Area, where steeper slopes create better drained land and improved conditions for the development of cropmarks. Elsewhere in the Study Area the flat clay landscape does not support cropmarks and so sites may survive undetected. Although settlement sites might be difficult to detect from artefact concentrations, which may be relatively impoverished.

- 8.1.7 There are no certainly dated sites that can be assigned to the Roman period within the Study Area although the cropmark sites discussed above might also have been occupied in this period. Given that the Study Area is likely to have been more intensively exploited than in the preceding period at this time it is surprising that so few known sites have been identified (and there is good evidence for this from areas close by such as the lower Itchen). Based on the available evidence there is a moderate potential for unknown assets to survive. There is only one known asset within the Study Area for the early medieval period but both burial and settlement sites are known from areas close by. Settlement density would have been lower than in the preceding Roman period and sites are difficult to prospect for and locate, being artefact poor and with often ephemeral buried features. There is moderate potential for unknown assets to survive within the Study Area.
- 8.1.8 There are no known areas of environmental preservation within the Study Area. A number of sites within the Study Area may have the potential to preserve palaeo-environmental evidence; these coincide with stream valleys and the River Itchen. Waterlogged and other remains might survive within palaeochannels or sealed beneath alluvium/colluvium. The predicted sites are:
- Radbourne streams south and north;
 - Ladbroke Grove Farm;
 - River Itchen;
 - Grand Union Canal, Longhole Bridge; and
 - Possible water course identified by LiDAR south-west of Southam (WA1.39).
- 8.1.9 The over-riding character of modern land use within the Study Area is agricultural. Although there has been a shift from pastoral to arable land use and large tracts of land have now been subject to ploughing, the lack of previous disturbance suggests that there is a potential for remains to survive across the Study Area.
- 8.1.10 Two principal historic settlements are located within the Study Area, Ladbroke and Southam. These along with more established dispersed settlement sites have a high potential for remains dating to the medieval and post medieval periods which appear to be the periods when most were established. The moated site at Stoneton Manor, and the manors of Wormleighton, and Hodnell are all likely to contain remains relating to this period while the ridge-and-furrow recorded at Fox Covert/Berryhill (LBS002), Ladbroke Grove Farm and north towards Windmill Hill (LBS044 and LBS045), East and NE of Ladbroke village to Harp Farm (LBS049), on the west bank of the Itchen close to Lower Farm and Stoney Thorpe (LBS072) and at Bascote Heath (LBS078) may also indicate areas of potential good survival.

8.2 Research potential and priorities

- 8.2.1 An archaeological Research Framework for the West Midlands provides an introduction to key themes of research in the region by period. Reflecting the potential of the land required for the Proposed Scheme in this CFA, and drawing on the general themes identified in the published research framework, the following

questions could provide the focus for investigation carried out in this study area in terms of period based and multi-period based landscape research:

- Can waterlogged deposits within the study area provide evidence of the environment in the prehistoric and Romano-British periods?
- What can artefact concentrations from varying soil types tell us about exploitation of the landscape in the prehistoric periods?
- How does soil chemistry in the study area affect the preservation of archaeological remains and how has that influenced our understanding of human activity in the Palaeolithic period?
- Can crop mark sites, such as at Stoneton (LBS003), Wormleighton (LBS011), and Long Itchington (LBS084); and at the possible Roman burial at Wormleighton (LBS011) shed more light on Iron Age and Romano-British society in the region?
- Evidence for the early medieval period is rare in the study area. Was activity of this date associated with Salt Way at Wormleighton?
- The Medieval period, with the evidence from earthworks, cropmarks and built heritage provides the greatest research potential in the study area. But does evidence of earlier periods survives beneath and between these medieval features?
- Is there more to be learnt and compared about the date, status, economy, agricultural practice, trade and contacts of medieval settlement, such as Wormleighton, Lower Radbourne, Ladbroke, and Stoney Thorpe, through the use of modern investigation techniques?
- What was the foundation, architectural development and role of site of the parish church/chapel at Lower Radbourne, and was there a graveyard that could shed light on the population, demography and burial practices of the community?
- What were the processes of continuity and change in settlement and the use of landscape change from the medieval period to the post medieval periods? What were the social processes behind the enclosure of open fields the emergence of private parkland? How and why did settlements such as Ladbroke continue to shrink, why were dispersed farmsteads established and marginal land, such as Brascote Heath recolonised?
- How did new communication systems such as canals, specifically the Oxford and Grand Union canals and the roads and turnpikes stimulate and assist the agrarian and industrial revolutions?

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